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LIRE 4300
EURO 2,22*

PKNA #45
Walt Disney MAGAZINES

PK

PAPERINIK NEW ADVENTURES

OPERATION HEPHAESTUS

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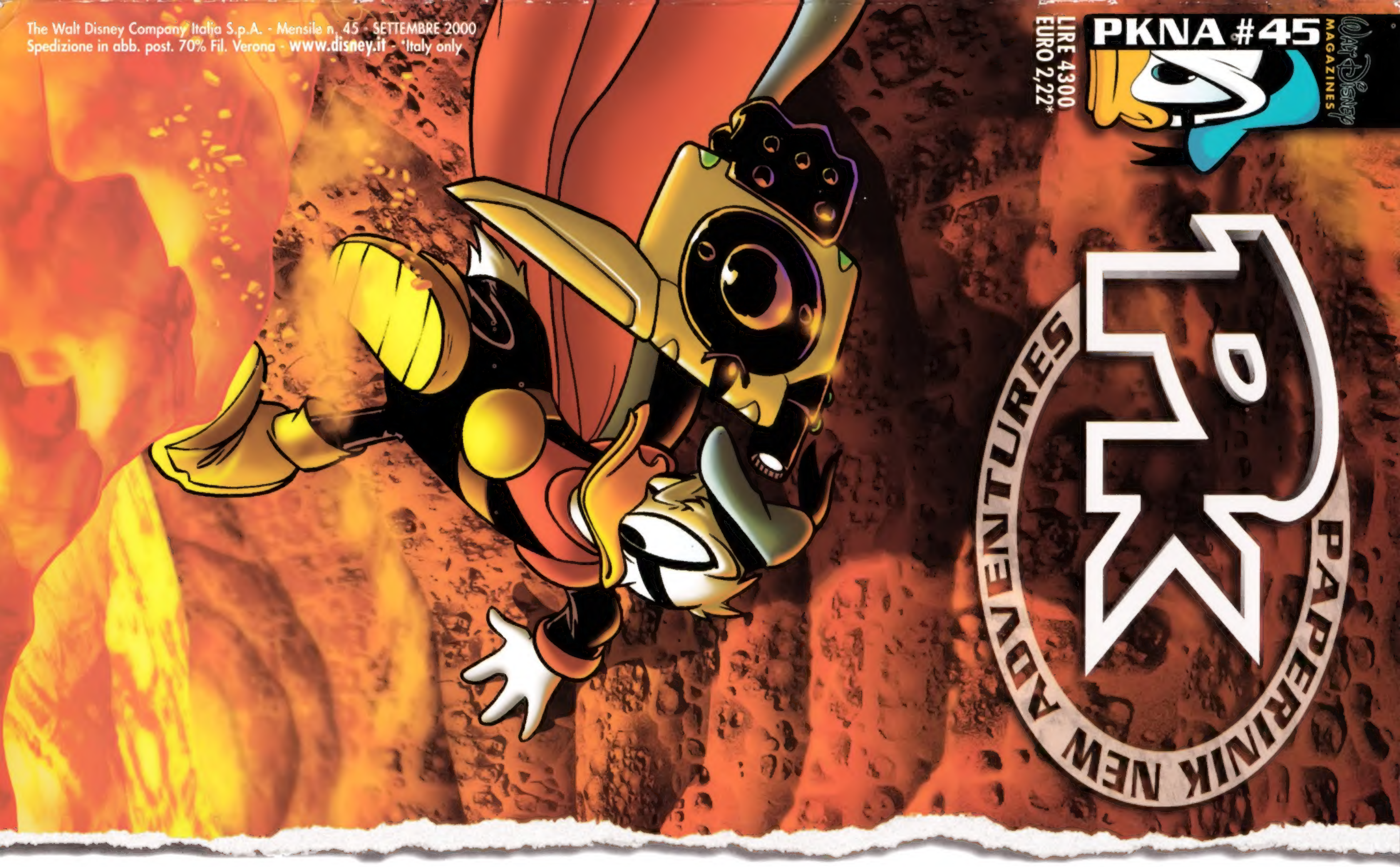
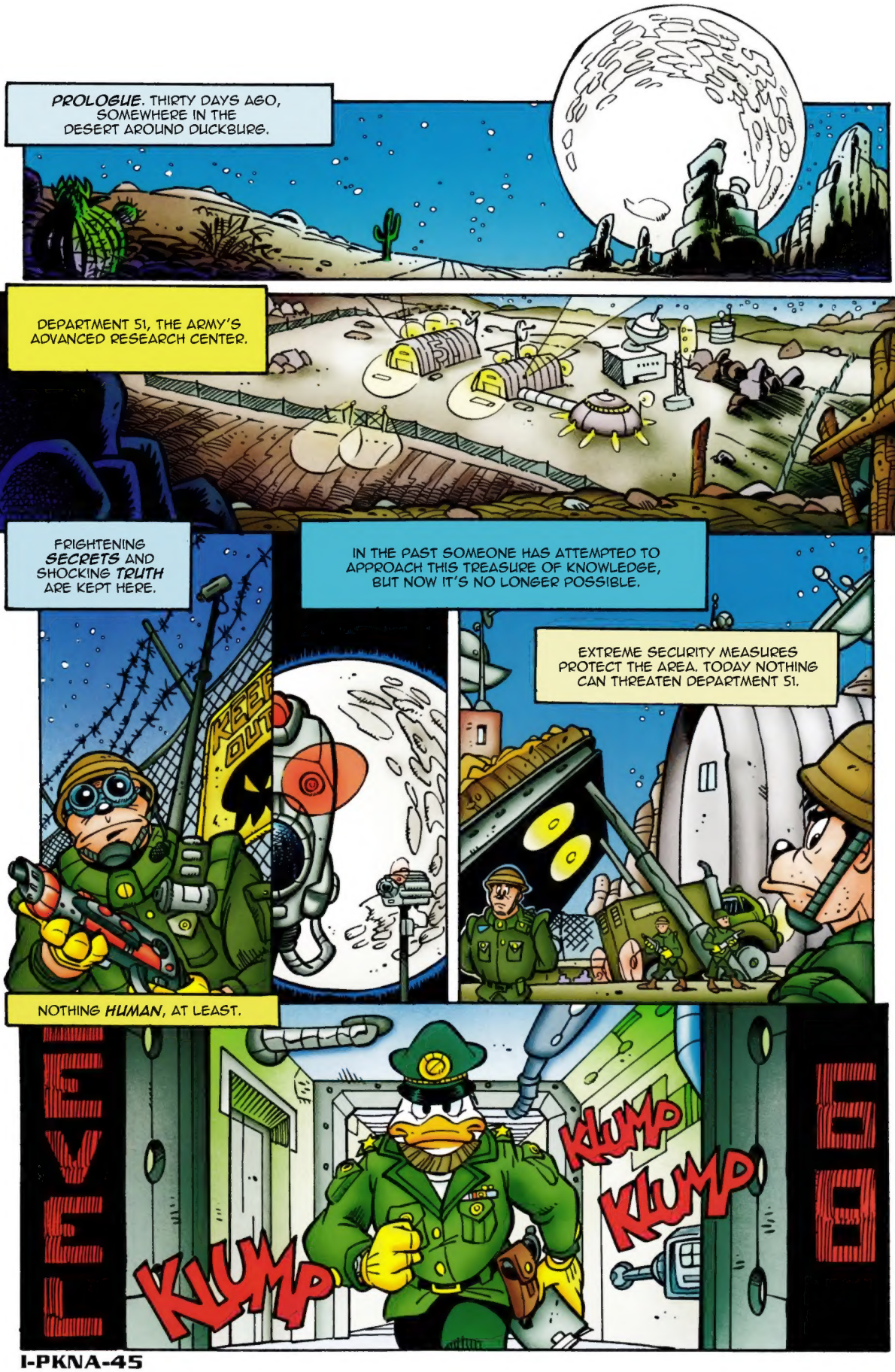
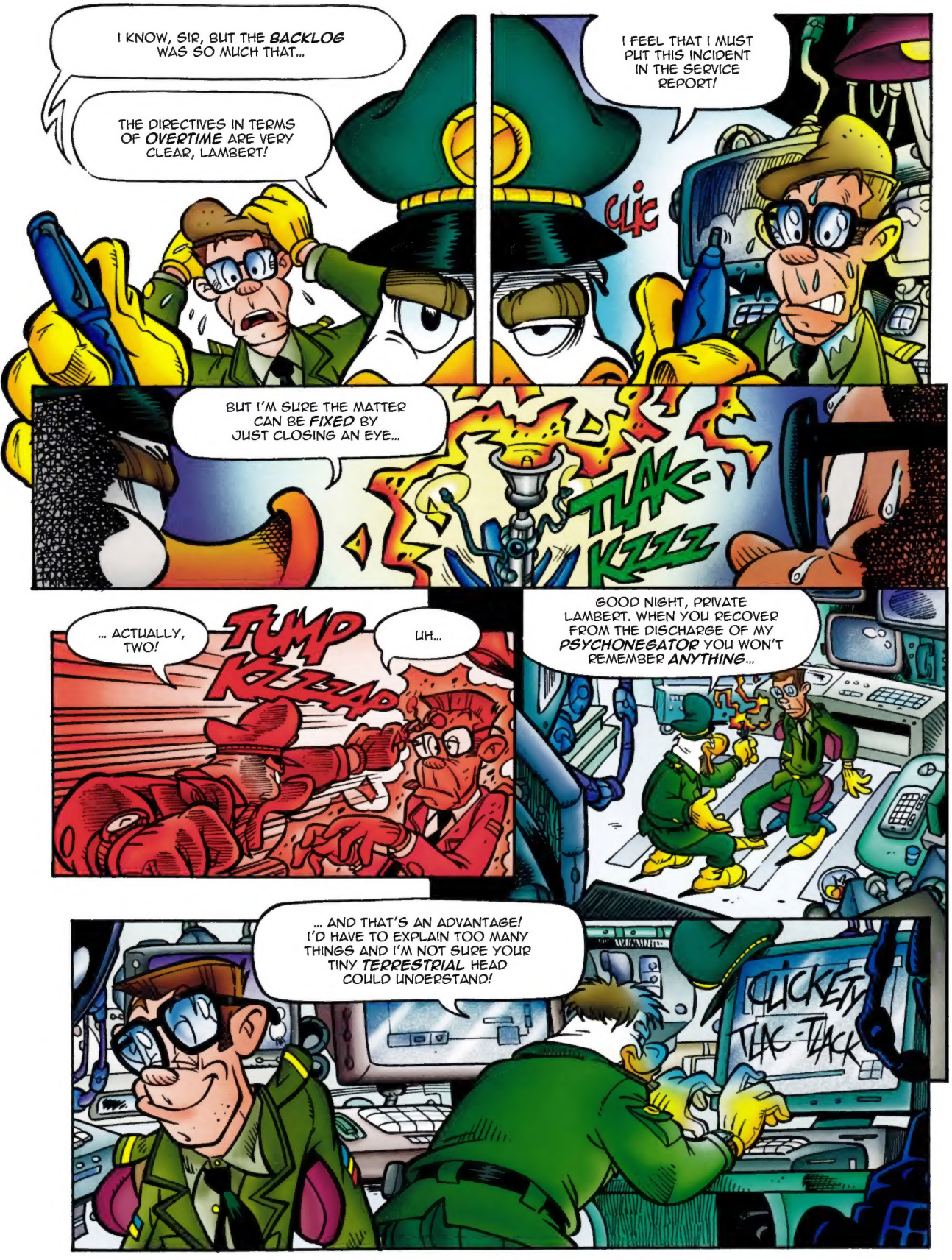


OPERATION HEPHAESTUS


PROLOGUE. THIRTY DAYS AGO, SOMEWHERE IN THE DESERT AROUND DUCKBURG.
DEPARTMENT 51, THE ARMY'S ADVANCED RESEARCH CENTER.
FRIGHTENING SECRETS AND SHOCKING TRUTH ARE KEPT HERE.
IN THE PAST SOMEONE HAS ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH THIS TREASURE OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT NOW IT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE.
KEEP OUT
EXTREME SECURITY MEASURES PROTECT THE AREA. TODAY NOTHING CAN THREATEN DEPARTMENT 51.
NOTHING HUMAN, AT LEAST.
KLUMP
KLUMP
KLUMP
BOO
I-PKNA-45

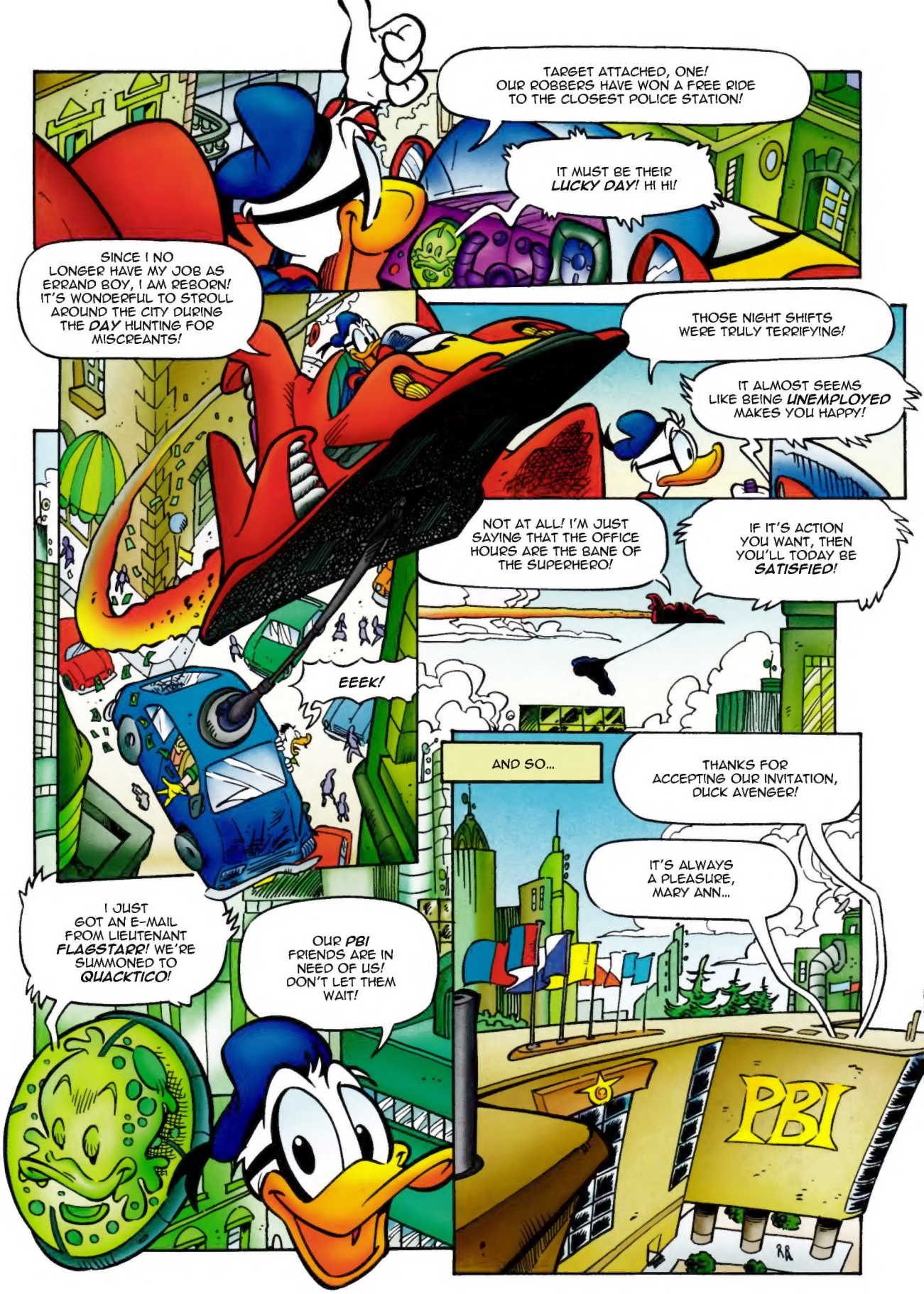
KSSSSs
TACKLETY TAC
CLAC
LAMBERT!
URGH!
H-HELLO, LIEUTENANT McCOY! YOU SCARED ME!
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING DOWN HERE? YOUR SHIFT ENDED AT TEN AND IT'S LONG PAST MIDNIGHT!

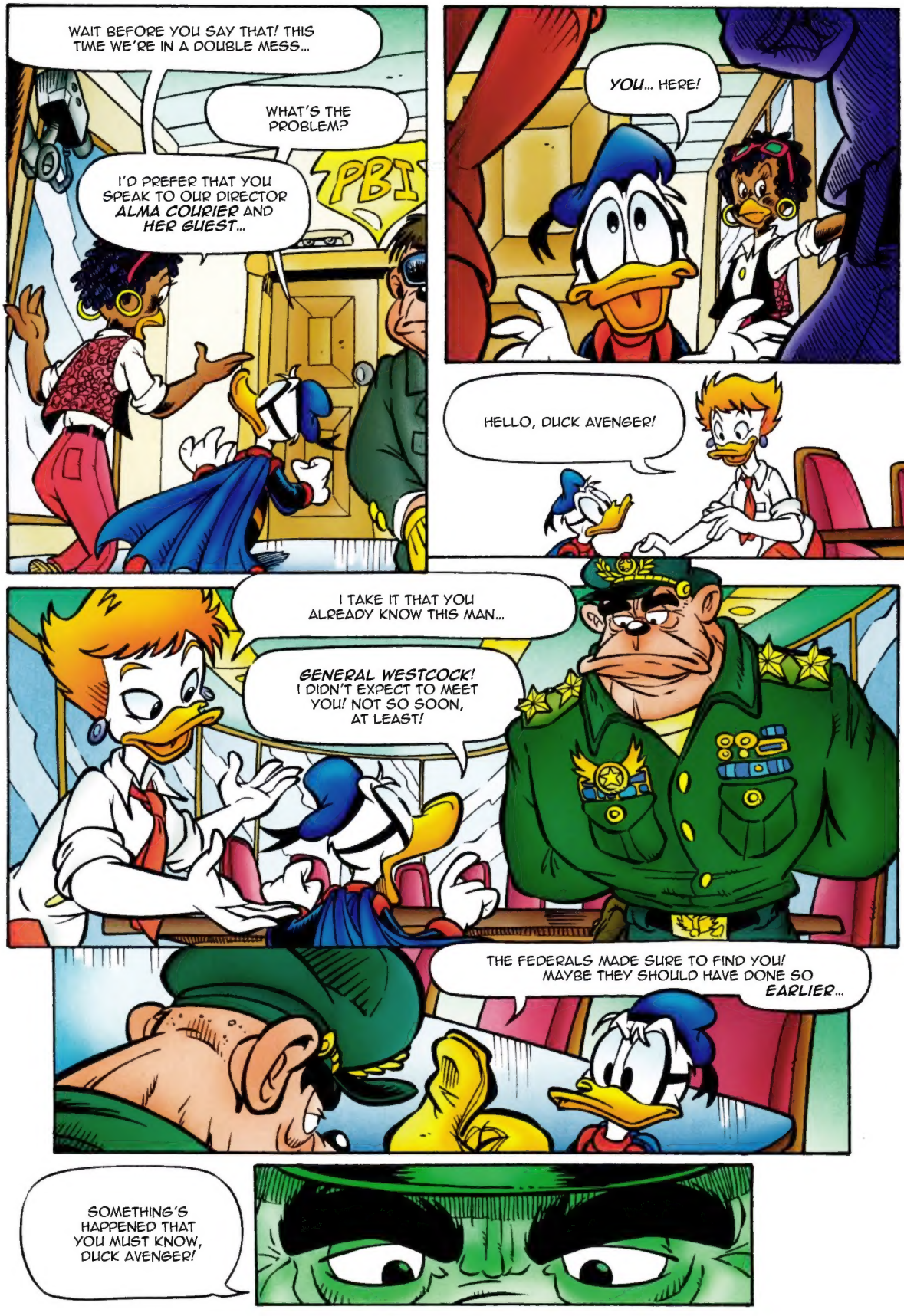

I KNOW, SIR, BUT THE BACKLOG WAS SO MUCH THAT...
THE DIRECTIVES IN TERMS OF OVERTIME ARE VERY CLEAR, LAMBERT!
I FEEL THAT I MUST PUT THIS INCIDENT IN THE SERVICE REPORT!
CLIC
BUT I'M SURE THE MATTER CAN BE FIXED BY JUST CLOSING AN EYE...
TLAK-KZZZ
... ACTUALLY, TWO!
TUMP KZZZAP
UH...
GOOD NIGHT, PRIVATE LAMBERT. WHEN YOU RECOVER FROM THE DISCHARGE OF MY PSYCHONEGATOR YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
... AND THAT'S AN ADVANTAGE! I'D HAVE TO EXPLAIN TOO MANY THINGS AND I'M NOT SURE YOUR TINY TERRESTRIAL HEAD COULD UNDERSTAND!
CLICKETY TLIC-TLACK

YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT FAITHFUL McCOY IS A SPY OF BELGRAVIA!
PASSWORD
CODE LAMBDA
CLACK-CLAK CLAKETY TLACK
AND YOU'D BE EVEN MORE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT HIDING UNDER THIS UNIFORM IS GRODON, THE EVRONIAN! HE HE! *
SELLING THE SECRETS OF DEPARTMENT 51 TO BELGRAVIA IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO ALTER THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THIS PLANET...
... AND AS THEY SAY IN THESE PARTS, A CONFUSED WORLD IS A WORLD EASIER TO DOMINATE!
CLIC
* SURPRISED? WHERE WERE YOU THIRTY DAYS AGO?
THERE! CONNECTION UNDERWAY! TRANSFER ACTIVATED! THIS IS THE FAVORITE PART OF MY JOB!
BWEEEP
TA-CLACK
U.S. ARMY

I COULD SAY THE SAME, LIEUTENANT! I LOVE CATCHING TRAITORS WITH THEIR HANDS IN THE COOKIE JAR!
SERGEANT! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS INTRUSION?
DISCONNECT THAT DEVICE AND MOVE AWAY FROM THERE!
BOYS, REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE TALKING TO A SUPERIOR AND...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
POW
KSSKSR
END OF TRANS-MISSION, SIR.
GREAT EVRON...
OPERAZIONE
EFESTO
Walt Disney

DUCKBURG. TODAY. VIEWED FROM ABOVE, THE CITY APPEARS QUIET AS ALWAYS...
... BUT VIEWED UP CLOSE, THINGS ALWAYS HAVE A DIFFERENT ASPECT.
SKREEE
BRANG
THAT WAY! TURN RIGHT!
HA HA! WE'VE LOST THEM!
VROOOOOOOOM
DON'T CELEBRATE YET! THAT GUY IS FULL OF RESOURCES!
HELLO, PEOPLE! NEED A LIFT?
BUT I WAS FASTER THAN HIM! WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE BEHIND US!
BUT YOU FORGOT TO LOOK ABOVE!
DUCK AVENGER!
KA-BONG

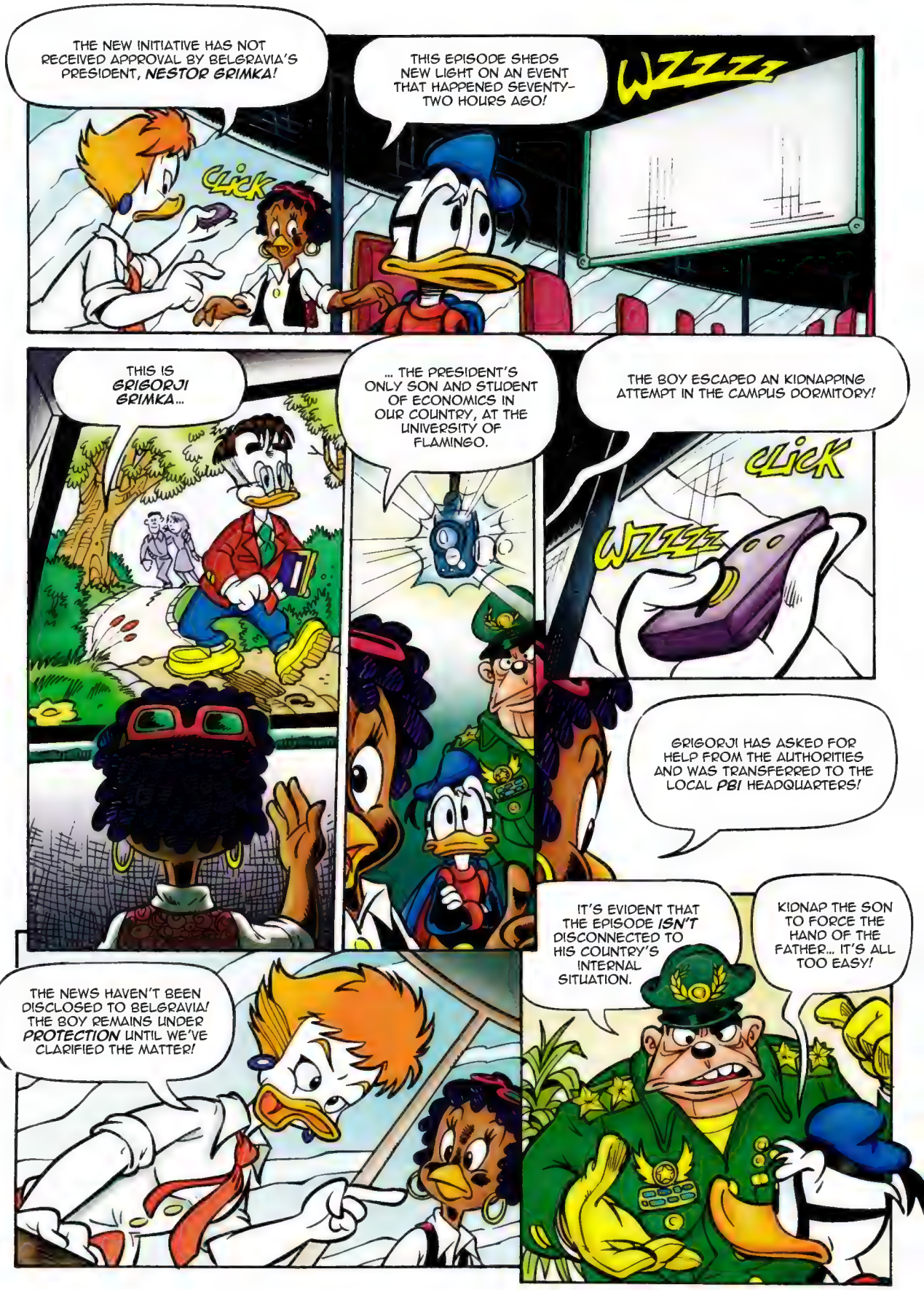

TARGET ATTACHED, ONE! OUR ROBBERS HAVE WON A FREE RIDE TO THE CLOSEST POLICE STATION!
IT MUST BE THEIR *LUCKY DAY*! HI HI!
SINCE I NO LONGER HAVE MY JOB AS ERRAND BOY, I AM REBORN! IT'S WONDERFUL TO STROLL AROUND THE CITY DURING THE *DAY* HUNTING FOR MISCREANTS!
THOSE NIGHT SHIFTS WERE TRULY TERRIFYING!
IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE BEING *UNEMPLOYED* MAKES YOU HAPPY!
NOT AT ALL! I'M JUST SAYING THAT THE OFFICE HOURS ARE THE BANE OF THE SUPERHERO!
IF IT'S ACTION YOU WANT, THEN YOU'LL TODAY BE *SATISFIED*!
EEEK!
AND SO...
THANKS FOR ACCEPTING OUR INVITATION, DUCK AVENGER!
IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE, MARY ANN...
I JUST GOT AN E-MAIL FROM LIEUTENANT *FLAGSTARR*! WE'RE SUMMONED TO *QUACKTICO*!
OUR *PBI* FRIENDS ARE IN NEED OF US! DON'T LET THEM WAIT!
PBI

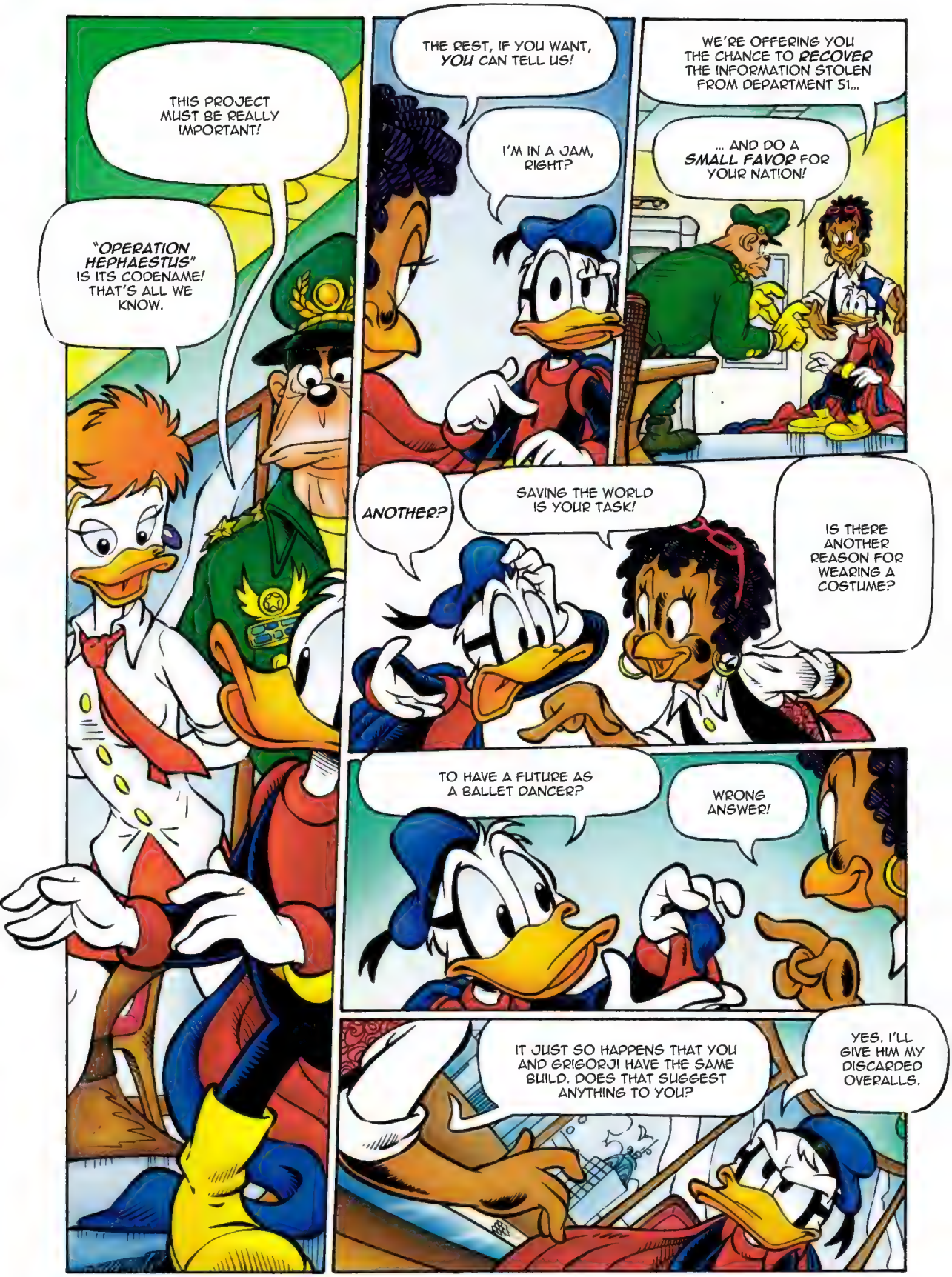

WAIT BEFORE YOU SAY THAT! THIS TIME WE'RE IN A DOUBLE MESS...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I'D PREFER THAT YOU SPEAK TO OUR DIRECTOR ALMA COURIER AND HER GUEST...
FBI
YOU... HERE!
HELLO, DUCK AVENGER!
I TAKE IT THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS MAN...
GENERAL WESTCOCK! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET YOU! NOT SO SOON, AT LEAST!
THE FEDERALS MADE SURE TO FIND YOU! MAYBE THEY SHOULD HAVE DONE SO EARLIER...
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED THAT YOU MUST KNOW, DUCK AVENGER!

THE DATA PACK YOU ENTRUSTED TO ME HAS BEEN HACKED. * A PORTION OF THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN STOLEN.
XADHOOM'S DATA PACK! OH NO!
* READ PKNA#44, "ON THE DARK SIDE".
I... ENTRUSTED THAT MATERIAL TO YOU SO THAT YOU'D KEEP IT SAFE.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR STATE OF MIND, BUT...
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
YOU SEE, ABOUT A MONTH AGO WE...
A MONTH AGO? AND YOU ONLY TELL ME NOW? WHO WAS IT?
LET ME SPEAK!
P-PLEASE...
YOUR PRECIOUS FILE WAS STORED AMONG CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS IN OUR ARCHIVE...
... BUT UNFORTUNATELY A HYPOTHESIS WAS VERIFIED THAT WE HADN'T TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION!

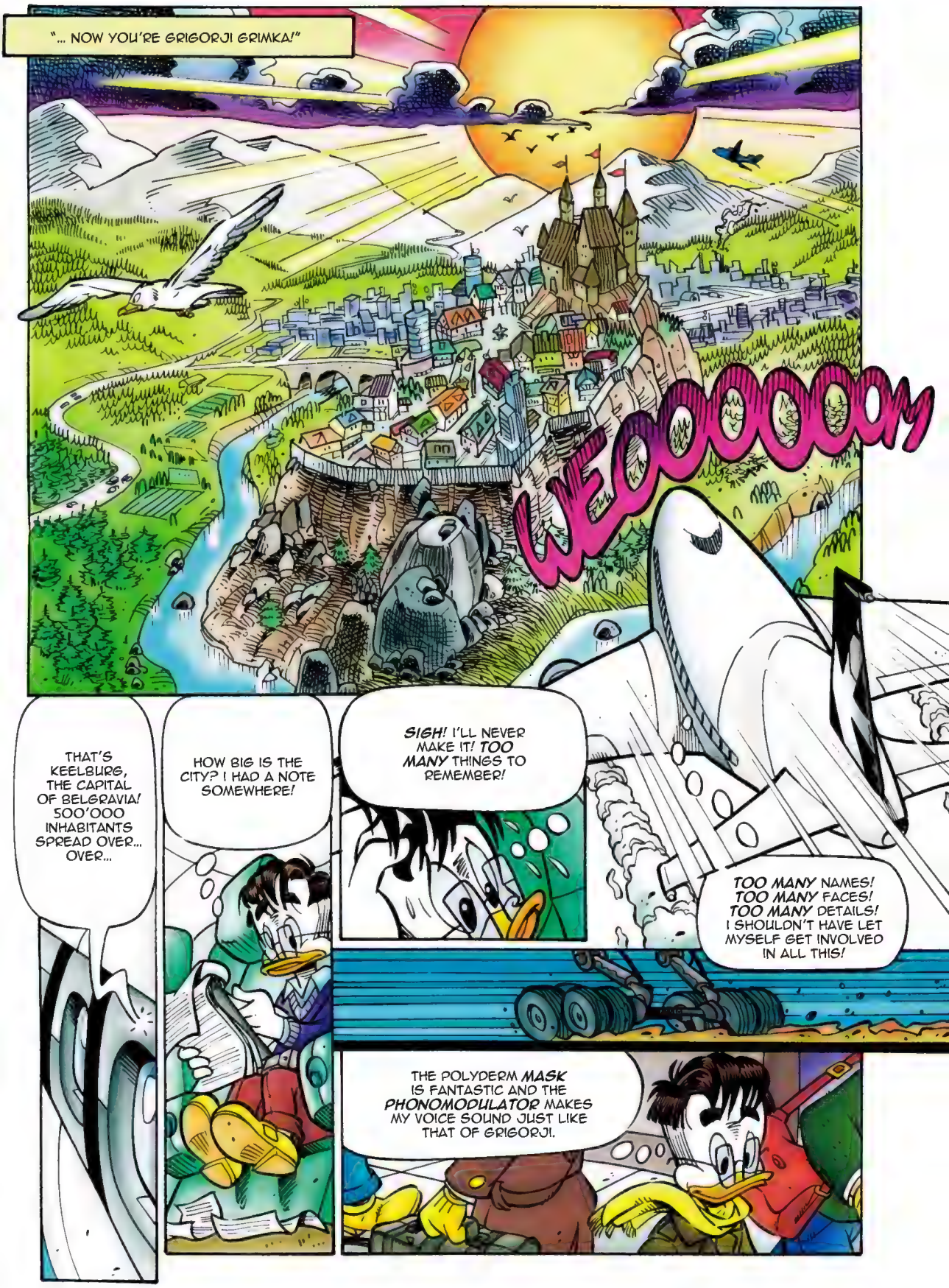
A HACKER HAD BREACHED YOUR BASE?
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS DISHONORABLE... A SPY HAD SACKED THE ARCHIVE!
HE THOUGHT OF STEALING THE PROJECT OF A SYSTEM OF EXTRAORBITAL TRANSMISSIONS...
... BUT YOUR THIEF INSTEAD GOT HIS HANDS ON MY MATERIAL!
FORTUNATELY, THE PROTECTION SYSTEM DETECTED THE INTRUSION AND THE SPY AS STOPPED BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETE HIS WORK...
BUT THIS DOESN'T PREVENT THAT A PORTION OF THE FILE HAS ALREADY FOR A FEW WEEKS BEEN IN THE POSSESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELGRAVIA!
FROM BAD TO WORSE! ARE YOU DONE WITH THE BAD NEWS?
NO! IS THAT YOUR CAR DOUBLE-PARKED?
MOVE? AND HOW? YOU TRY IT, WE'RE LINKED LIKE A SAUSAGE!
IN ANY CASE, YOU CAN'T STAY HERE!

FORGET MY PARKING! WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS!
IT WAS THE WORK OF LIEUTENANT McCOY, DUCK AVENGER!
McCOY?
HE HAD LATELY BEHAVED IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER AND I HAD HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE.
HOWEVER, MY INTUITION WAS PROVED RIGHT!
AND WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?
I BELIEVE THAT MISS COURIER HAS *AN IDEA* IN THAT REGARD!
FOR TWO WEEKS BELGRAVIA'S LABORATORIES HAVE WORKED ON A ***SYSTEM*** OF UNKNOWN NATURE! WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE INFORMATION ***TRANSMITTED*** BY McCOY.
UH...


THE NEW INITIATIVE HAS NOT RECEIVED APPROVAL BY BELGRAVIA'S PRESIDENT, NESTOR GRIMKA!
CLICK
THIS EPISODE SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON AN EVENT THAT HAPPENED SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AGO!
WZZZZ
THIS IS GRIGORJI GRIMKA...
... THE PRESIDENT'S ONLY SON AND STUDENT OF ECONOMICS IN OUR COUNTRY, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLAMINGO.
THE BOY ESCAPED AN KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT IN THE CAMPUS DORMITORY!
CLICK
WZZZZ
GRIGORJI HAS ASKED FOR HELP FROM THE AUTHORITIES AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LOCAL PBI HEADQUARTERS!
IT'S EVIDENT THAT THE EPISODE ISN'T DISCONNECTED TO HIS COUNTRY'S INTERNAL SITUATION.
KIDNAP THE SON TO FORCE THE HAND OF THE FATHER... IT'S ALL TOO EASY!
THE NEWS HAVEN'T BEEN DISCLOSED TO BELGRAVIA! THE BOY REMAINS UNDER PROTECTION UNTIL WE'VE CLARIFIED THE MATTER!

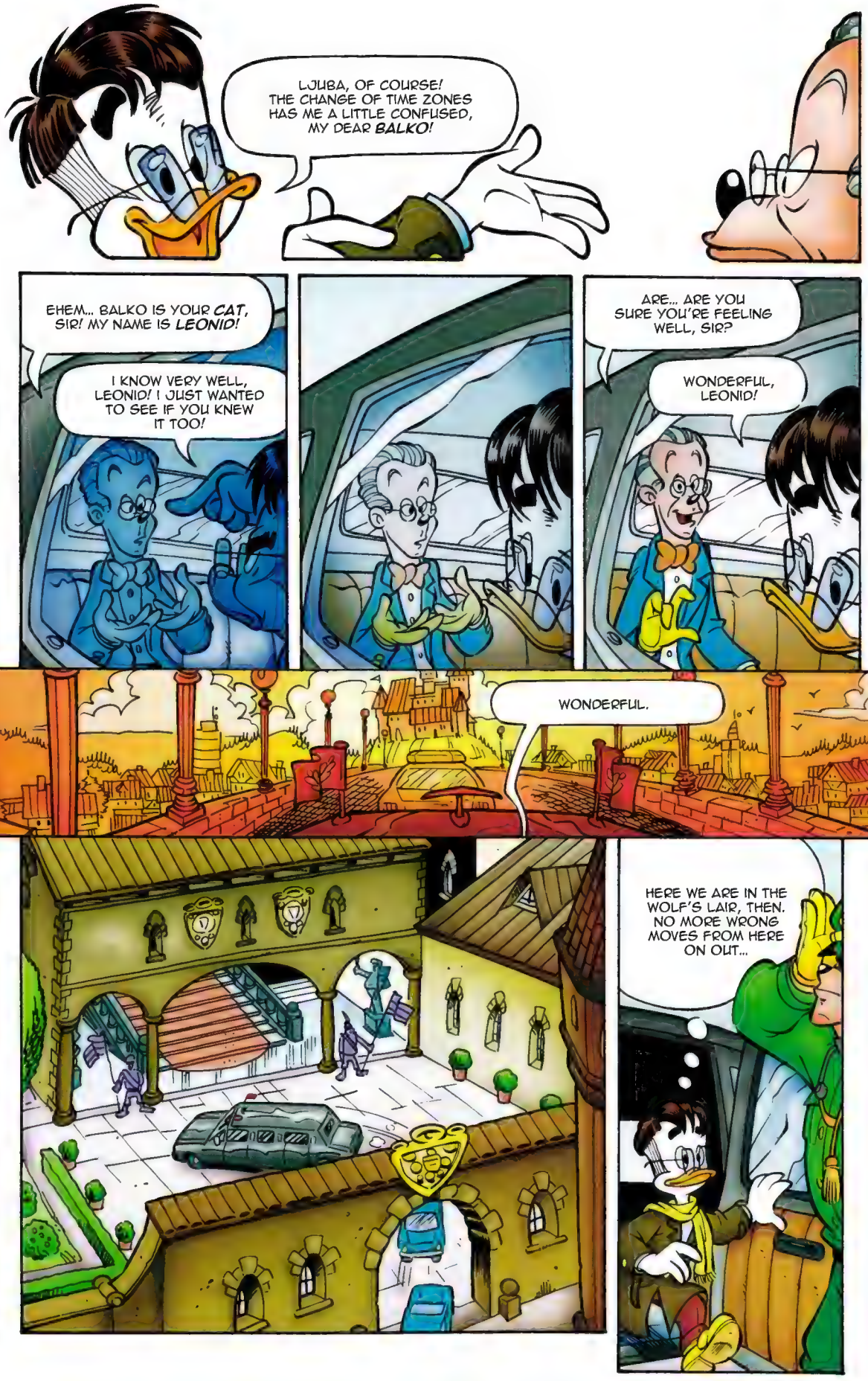

THIS PROJECT MUST BE REALLY IMPORTANT!
"OPERATION HEPHAESTUS" IS ITS CODENAME! THAT'S ALL WE KNOW.
THE REST, IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN TELL US!
I'M IN A JAM, RIGHT?
WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO RECOVER THE INFORMATION STOLEN FROM DEPARTMENT 51...
... AND DO A SMALL FAVOR FOR YOUR NATION!
ANOTHER?
SAVING THE WORLD IS YOUR TASK!
IS THERE ANOTHER REASON FOR WEARING A COSTUME?
TO HAVE A FUTURE AS A BALLET DANCER?
WRONG ANSWER!
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT YOU AND GRIGORJI HAVE THE SAME BUILD. DOES THAT SUGGEST ANYTHING TO YOU?
YES, I'LL GIVE HIM MY DISCARDED OVERALLS.

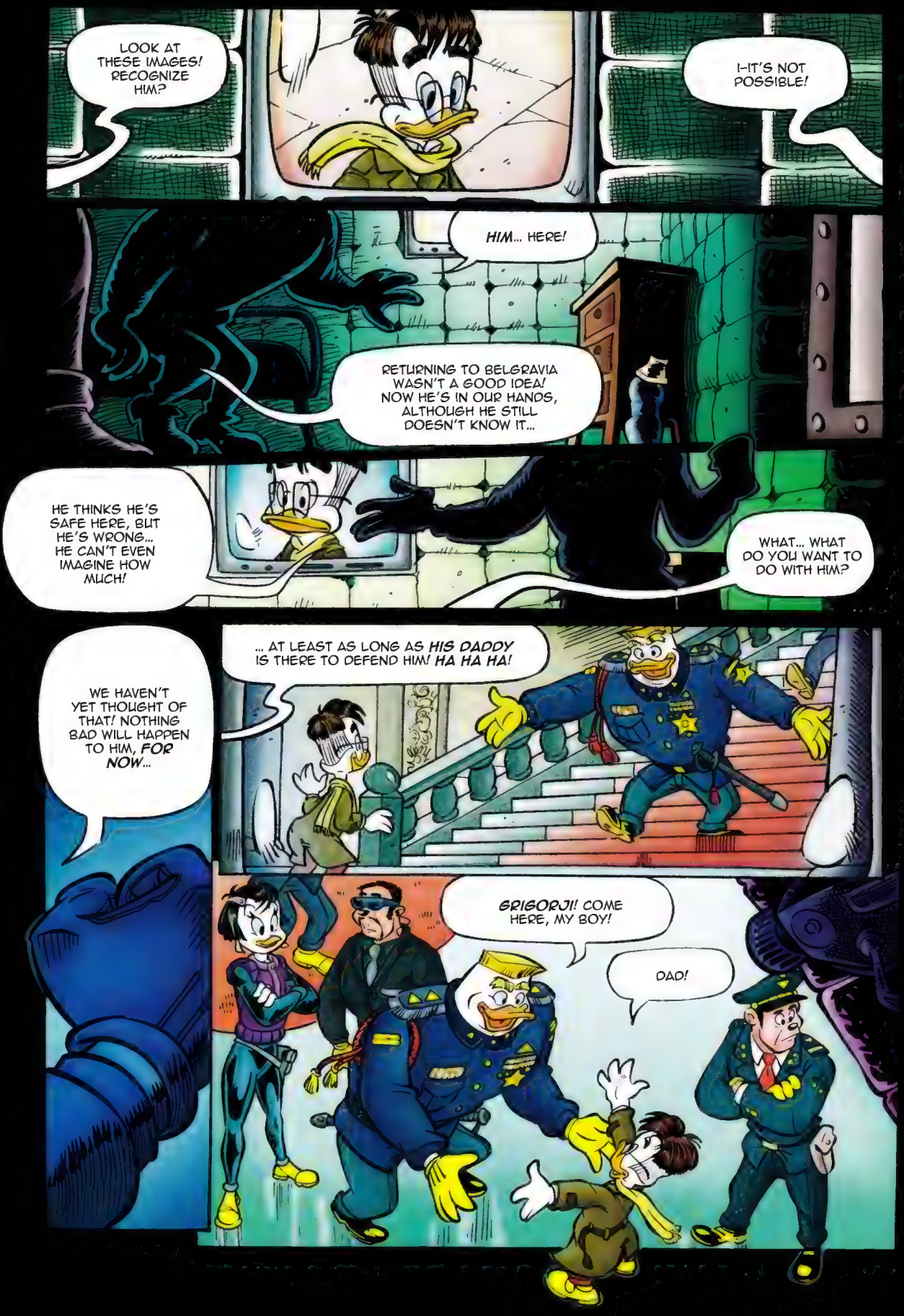
IMPOSSIBLE!
ABSURD!
RIDICULOUS!
THAT'S... THAT'S INSANE!
NOT EXACTLY! YOU'LL ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S SON SO YOU CAN ACT UNDISTURBED IN BELGRAVIA!
I CAN'T DO SUCH A THING!
YET THIS IS PRECISELY YOUR KIND OF THING!
IT WON'T BE DIFFICULT TO TAKE HIS PLACE! THE PBI DOSSIER ON YOU SAYS THAT YOU WERE ONCE AN ACE OF TRANFORMISM!
GRIGORJI HAS ALREADY SAID THAT HE'S WILLING TO ORGANIZE "HIS" RETURN HOME!
EXACTLY! AND THEN THINK ABOUT THE BRIGHT SIDE...
THERE'S A BRIGHT SIDE?
YOU'LL BE TREATED WITH FULL RESPECT! LIVE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE! YOU'LL BE THE MOST ENVIABLE DUCK OF BELGRAVIA...
FORGET THE DUCK AVENGER...

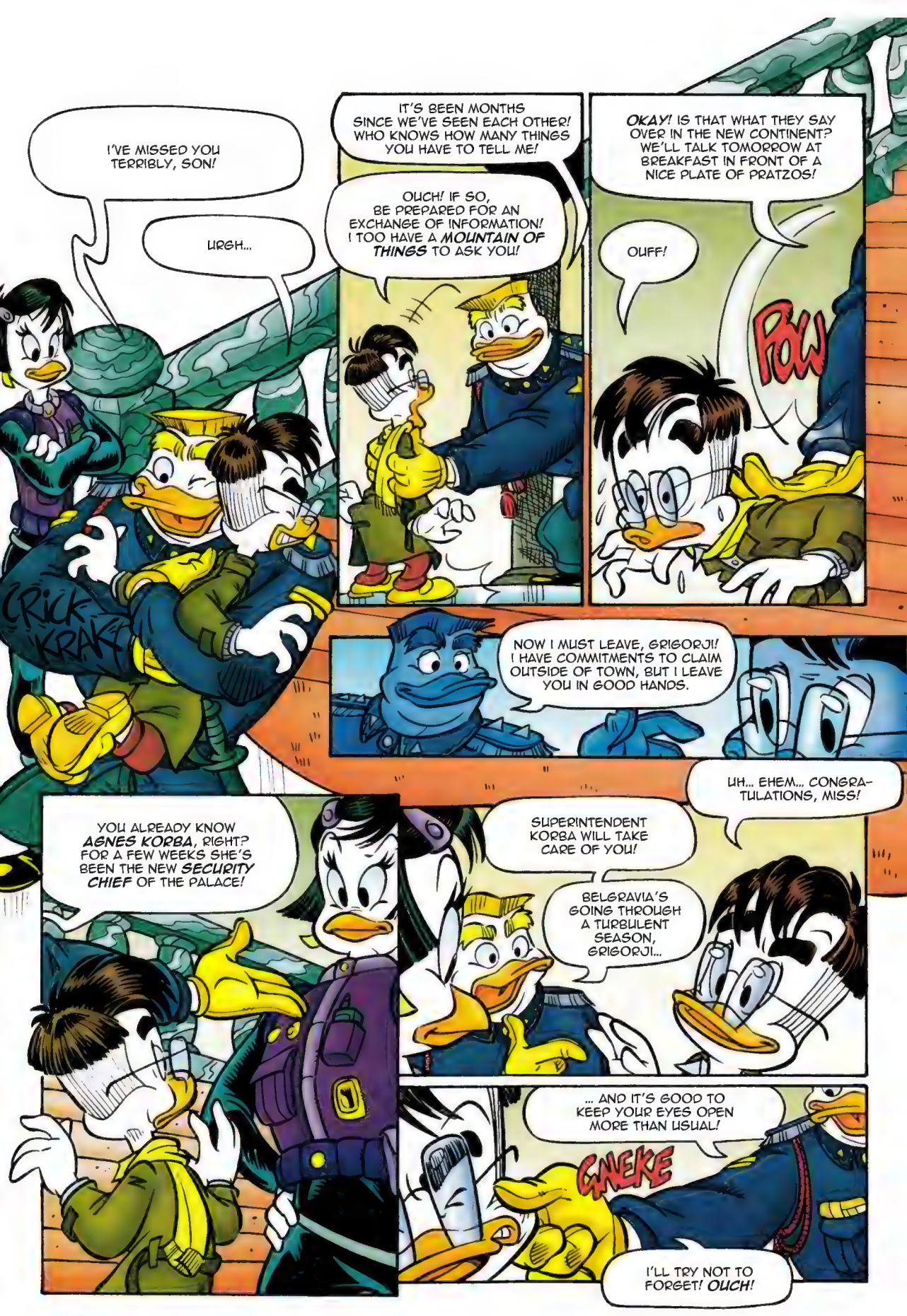

"... NOW YOU'RE GRIGORJI GRIMKA!"
WEOOOOOH
THAT'S KEELBURG, THE CAPITAL OF BELGRAVIA! 500'000 INHABITANTS SPREAD OVER... OVER...
HOW BIG IS THE CITY? I HAD A NOTE SOMEWHERE!
SIGH! I'LL NEVER MAKE IT! TOO MANY THINGS TO REMEMBER!
TOO MANY NAMES! TOO MANY FACES! TOO MANY DETAILS! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET MYSELF GET INVOLVED IN ALL THIS!
THE POLYDERM MASK IS FANTASTIC AND THE PHONOMODULATOR MAKES MY VOICE SOUND JUST LIKE THAT OF GRIGORJI.

BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS?
TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, PLEASE!
GULP! MR. GRIMKA?!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MY GOOD MAN?
WELL... WITH ALL DUE RESPECT... I BELIEVE YOU'VE GOTTEN IN THE WRONG CAR!
WRONG? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS TAXI?
N-NOTHING, SIR, BUT...
... I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMEONE'S HERE TO WELCOME YOU!
!
INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL
MASTER GRIGORJI!

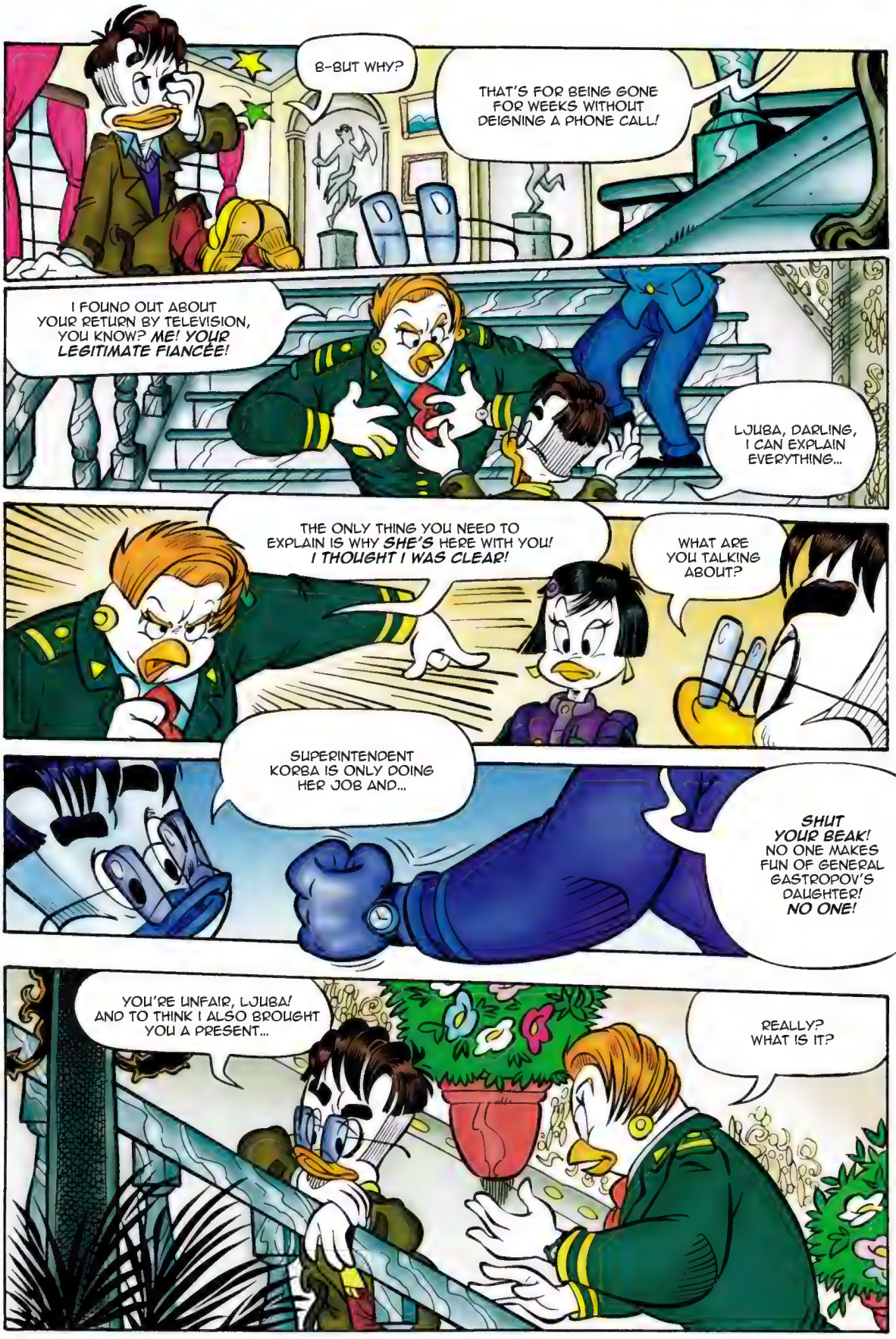
EHEM... HELLO, PEOPLE! I... I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU!
YOU ALWAYS WANT TO JOKE, SIR!
RETURNING TO KEELBURG PUTS ME IN A GOOD MOOD! HOW'S MY FATHER?
HE'S IN SHAPE, LIKE ALWAYS! HE'S AT THE PALACE AND IS EAGER TO EMBRACE YOU...
... AND BETWEEN OURSELVES, MASTER GRIGORJI, HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WAITING FOR YOU WITH ANXIETY, IF YOU GET WHAT I MEAN...
UH... WELL... YES, BUT... COULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE PRECISE?
MISS GASTROPOVA IS WAITING FOR YOU!
AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?
HA HA HA! GOOD ONE!
IT WASN'T A JOKE! WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOUR FIANCÉE, SIR! LJUBA GASTROPOVA!
A FIANCÉE? THIS WASN'T WRITTEN IN THE DOSSIER! WHY DION'T ANYONE TELL ME?

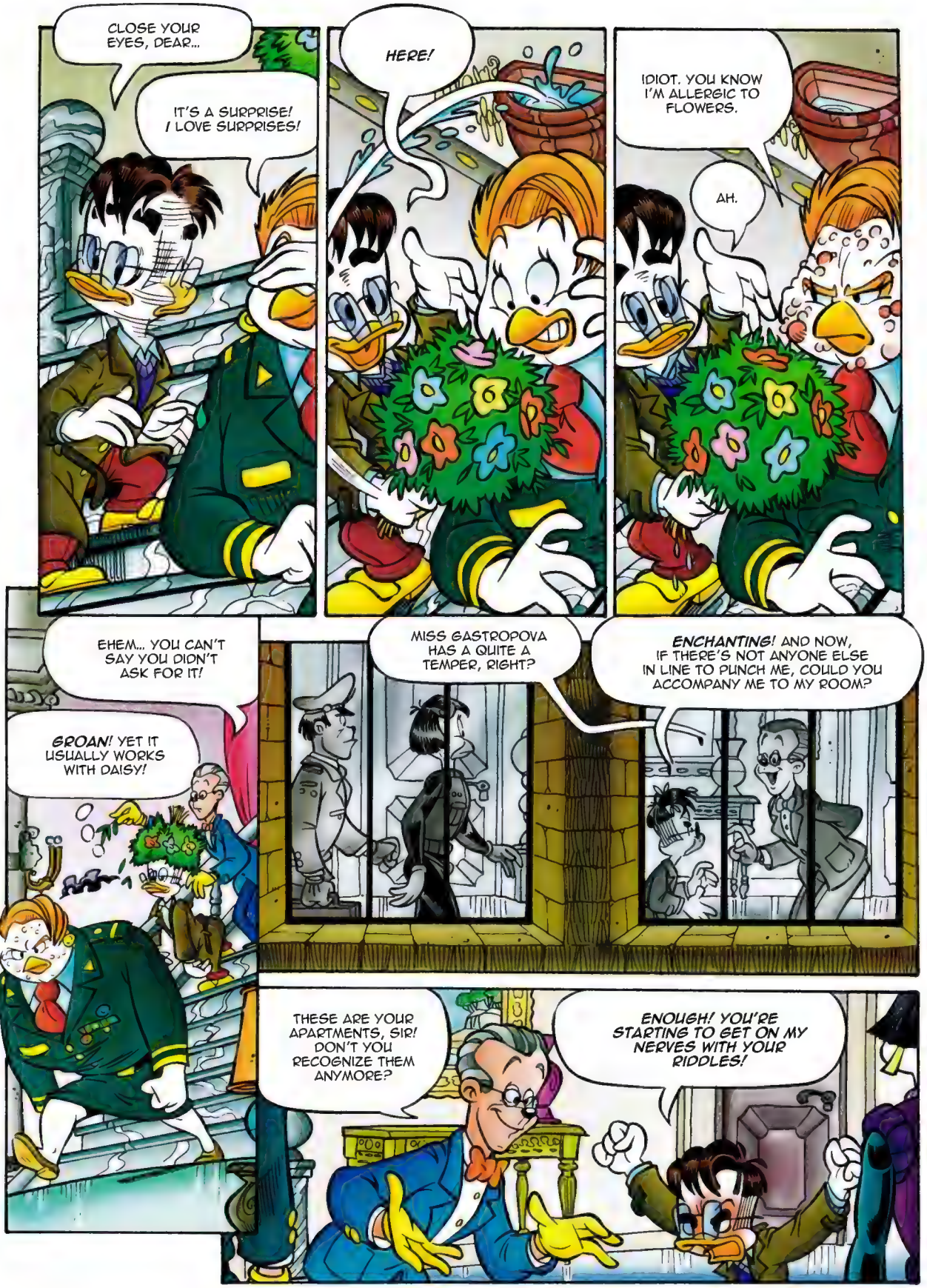

LJUBA, OF COURSE! THE CHANGE OF TIME ZONES HAS ME A LITTLE CONFUSED, MY DEAR BALKO!
EHEM... BALKO IS YOUR CAT, SIR! MY NAME IS LEONID!
I KNOW VERY WELL, LEONID! I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU KNEW IT TOO!
ARE... ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING WELL, SIR?
WONDERFUL, LEONID!
WONDERFUL.
HERE WE ARE IN THE WOLF'S LAIR, THEN. NO MORE WRONG MOVES FROM HERE ON OUT...


LOOK AT THESE IMAGES! RECOGNIZE HIM?
I-IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
HIM... HERE!
RETURNING TO BELGRAVIA WASN'T A GOOD IDEA! NOW HE'S IN OUR HANDS, ALTHOUGH HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW IT...
HE THINKS HE'S SAFE HERE, BUT HE'S WRONG... HE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW MUCH!
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH HIM?
... AT LEAST AS LONG AS HIS DADDY IS THERE TO DEFEND HIM! HA HA HA!
WE HAVEN'T YET THOUGHT OF THAT! NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO HIM, FOR NOW...
GRIGORJI! COME HERE, MY BOY!
DAD!

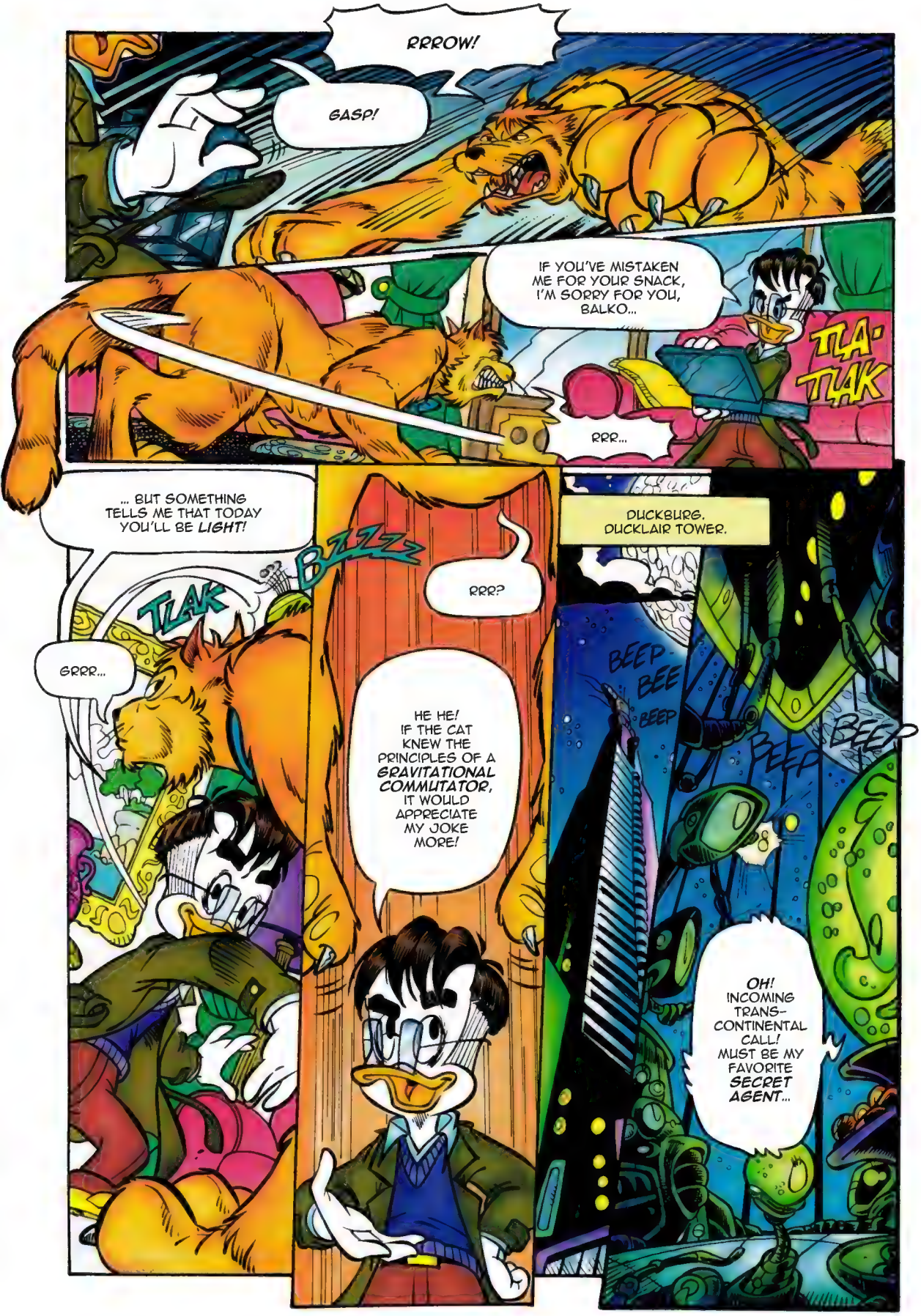

I'VE MISSED YOU TERRIBLY, SON!
URGH...
CRICK KRAK!
IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER! WHO KNOWS HOW MANY THINGS YOU HAVE TO TELL ME!
OUCH! IF SO, BE PREPARED FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION! I TOO HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS TO ASK YOU!
OKAY! IS THAT WHAT THEY SAY OVER IN THE NEW CONTINENT? WE'LL TALK TOMORROW AT BREAKFAST IN FRONT OF A NICE PLATE OF PRATZOS!
OUFF!
POW
NOW I MUST LEAVE, GRIGORJI! I HAVE COMMITMENTS TO CLAIM OUTSIDE OF TOWN, BUT I LEAVE YOU IN GOOD HANDS.
YOU ALREADY KNOW AGNES KORBA, RIGHT? FOR A FEW WEEKS SHE'S BEEN THE NEW SECURITY CHIEF OF THE PALACE!
UH... EHEM... CONGRATULATIONS, MISS!
SUPERINTENDENT KORBA WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BELGRAVIA'S GOING THROUGH A TURBULENT SEASON, GRIGORJI...
... AND IT'S GOOD TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN MORE THAN USUAL!
GNEKE
I'LL TRY NOT TO FORGET! OUCH!

THE PRESIDENT DOTES ON YOU, MASTER GRIGORJI!
IF A BRUISE CAN BE CONSIDERED A SIGN OF AFFECTION, THEN YES, HE REALLY LOVES ME!
I THINK I'M NOW GOING TO REST.
AS YOU WISH, SIR! WE'LL ACCOMPANY YOU!
GRIGORJI GRIMKA!
URGH!
MISS GASTROPOVA, MASTER! WE HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HER!
LJUBA! LIGHT OF MY PUPILS!
SMASH
UH OH...

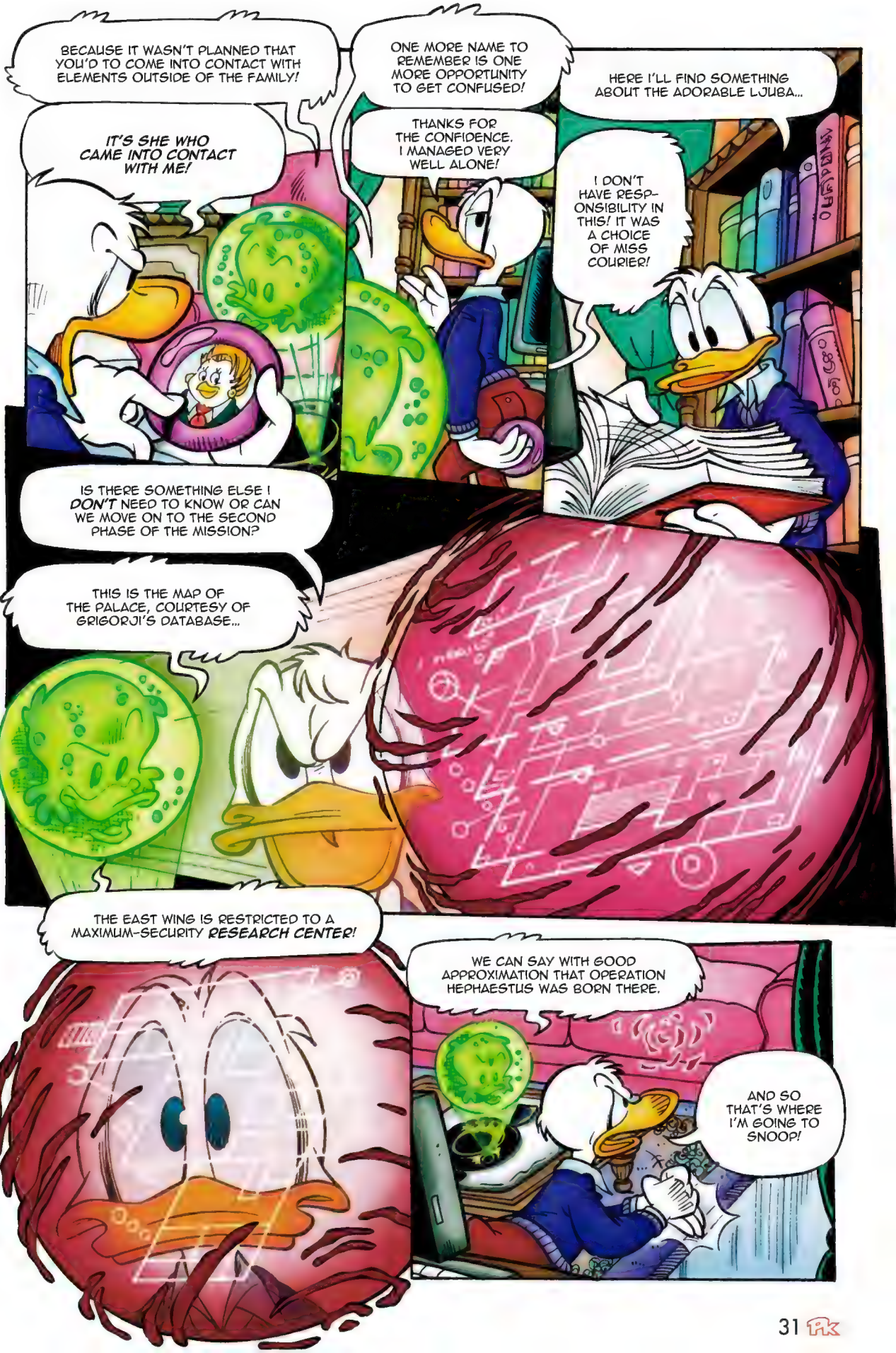

B-BUT WHY?
THAT'S FOR BEING GONE FOR WEEKS WITHOUT DEIGNING A PHONE CALL!
I FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR RETURN BY TELEVISION, YOU KNOW? ME! YOUR LEGITIMATE FIANCÉE!
LJUBA, DARLING, I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...
THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO EXPLAIN IS WHY SHE'S HERE WITH YOU! I THOUGHT I WAS CLEAR!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SUPERINTENDENT KORBA IS ONLY DOING HER JOB AND...
SHUT YOUR BEAK! NO ONE MAKES FUN OF GENERAL GASTROPOV'S DAUGHTER! NO ONE!
YOU'RE UNFAIR, LJUBA! AND TO THINK I ALSO BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT...
REALLY? WHAT IS IT?

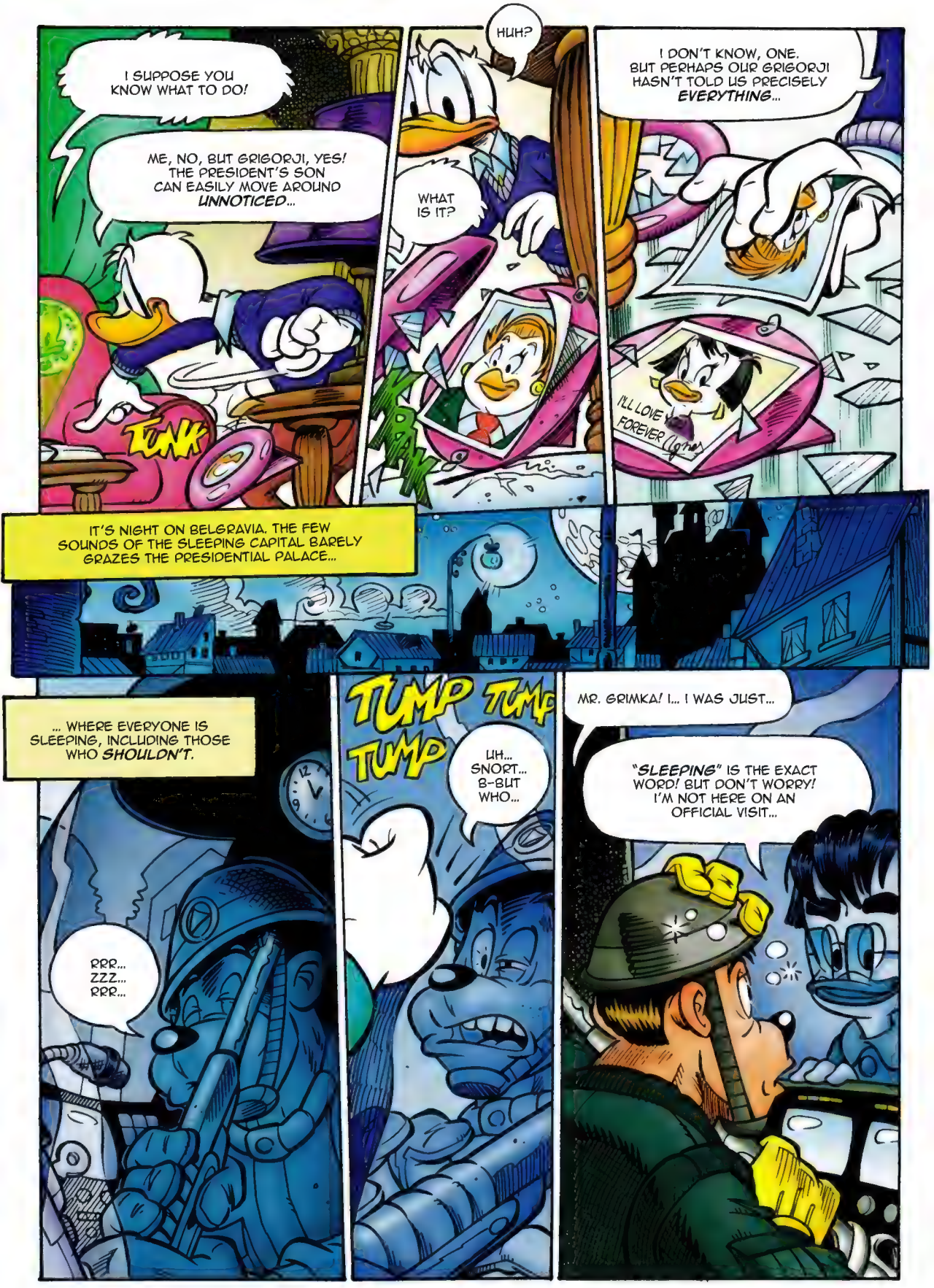

CLOSE YOUR EYES, DEAR...
IT'S A SURPRISE! I LOVE SURPRISES!
HERE!
IDIOT. YOU KNOW I'M ALLERGIC TO FLOWERS.
AH.
EHEM... YOU CAN'T SAY YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR IT!
GROAN! YET IT USUALLY WORKS WITH DAISY!
MISS GASTROPOVA HAS A QUITE A TEMPER, RIGHT?
ENCHANTING! AND NOW, IF THERE'S NOT ANYONE ELSE IN LINE TO PUNCH ME, COULD YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO MY ROOM?
THESE ARE YOUR APARTMENTS, SIR! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM ANYMORE?
ENOUGH! YOU'RE STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES WITH YOUR RIDDLES!

LET ME BE ALONE! I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED BY ANYONE!
YOUR CAT IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE ROOM! WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO BE MOVED AWAY?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE, LEONID! WHAT TROUBLE CAN A LITTLE ANIMAL GIVE ME?
SLAM
PURRR...
!
PURRR...
Y-YOU MUST BE B-BALKO, RIGHT? Y-YOU'RE REALLY A BIG CAT! I-I'M SURE THE TWO OF US WILL GET ALONG...
SNIFF SNIFF
HE MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE NOSE DOESN'T DECEIVE...
RRR...

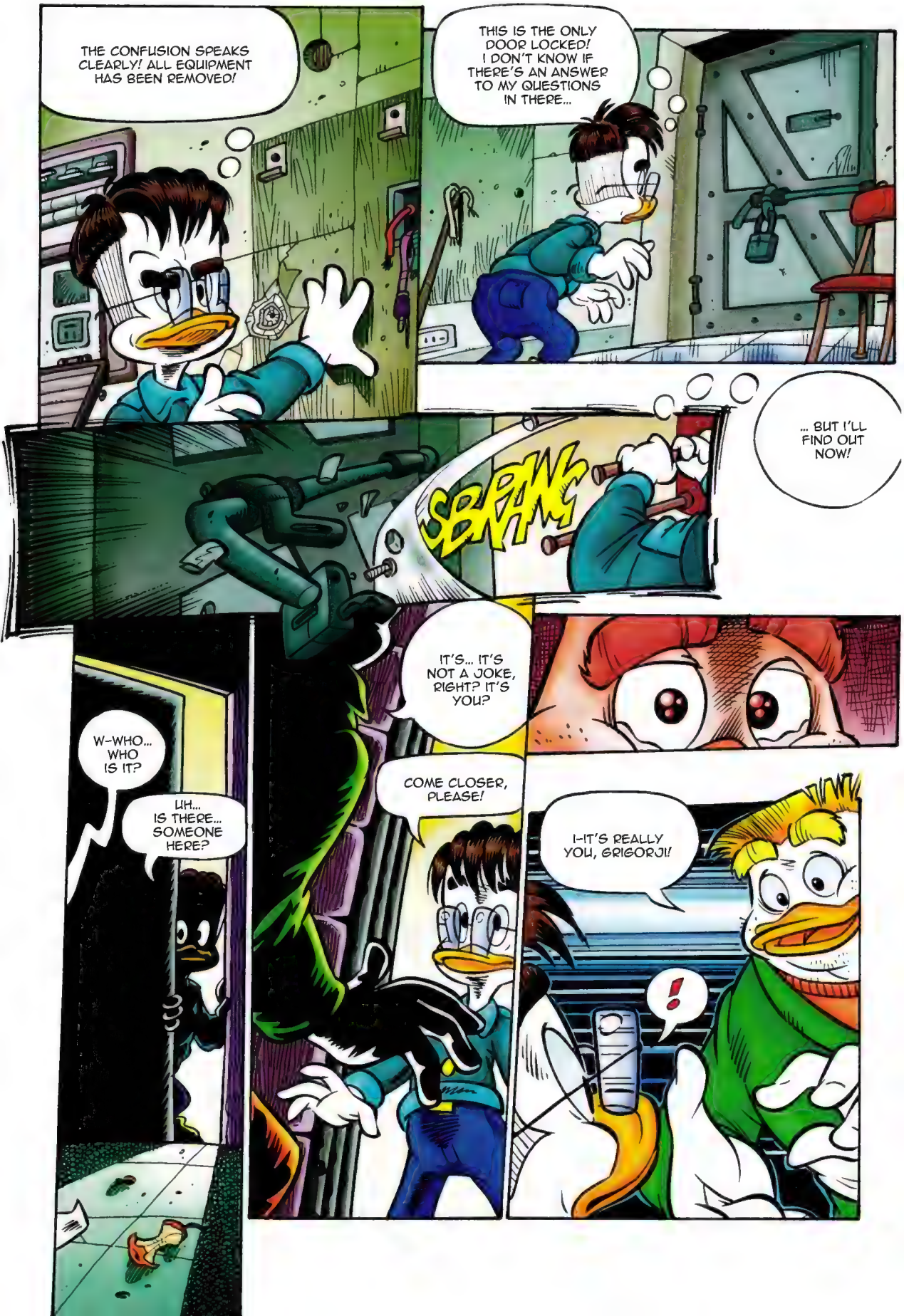

RRROW!
GASP!
IF YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR YOUR SNACK, I'M SORRY FOR YOU, BALKO...
TLA-TLAK
RRR...
... BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT TODAY YOU'LL BE LIGHT!
TLAK
BZZZZ
GRRR...
RRR?
HE HE! IF THE CAT KNEW THE PRINCIPLES OF A GRAVITATIONAL COMMUTATOR, IT WOULD APPRECIATE MY JOKE MORE!
DUCKBURG. DUCKLAIR TOWER.
BEEP-BEE BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
OH! INCOMING TRANS-CONTINENTAL CALL! MUST BE MY FAVORITE SECRET AGENT...

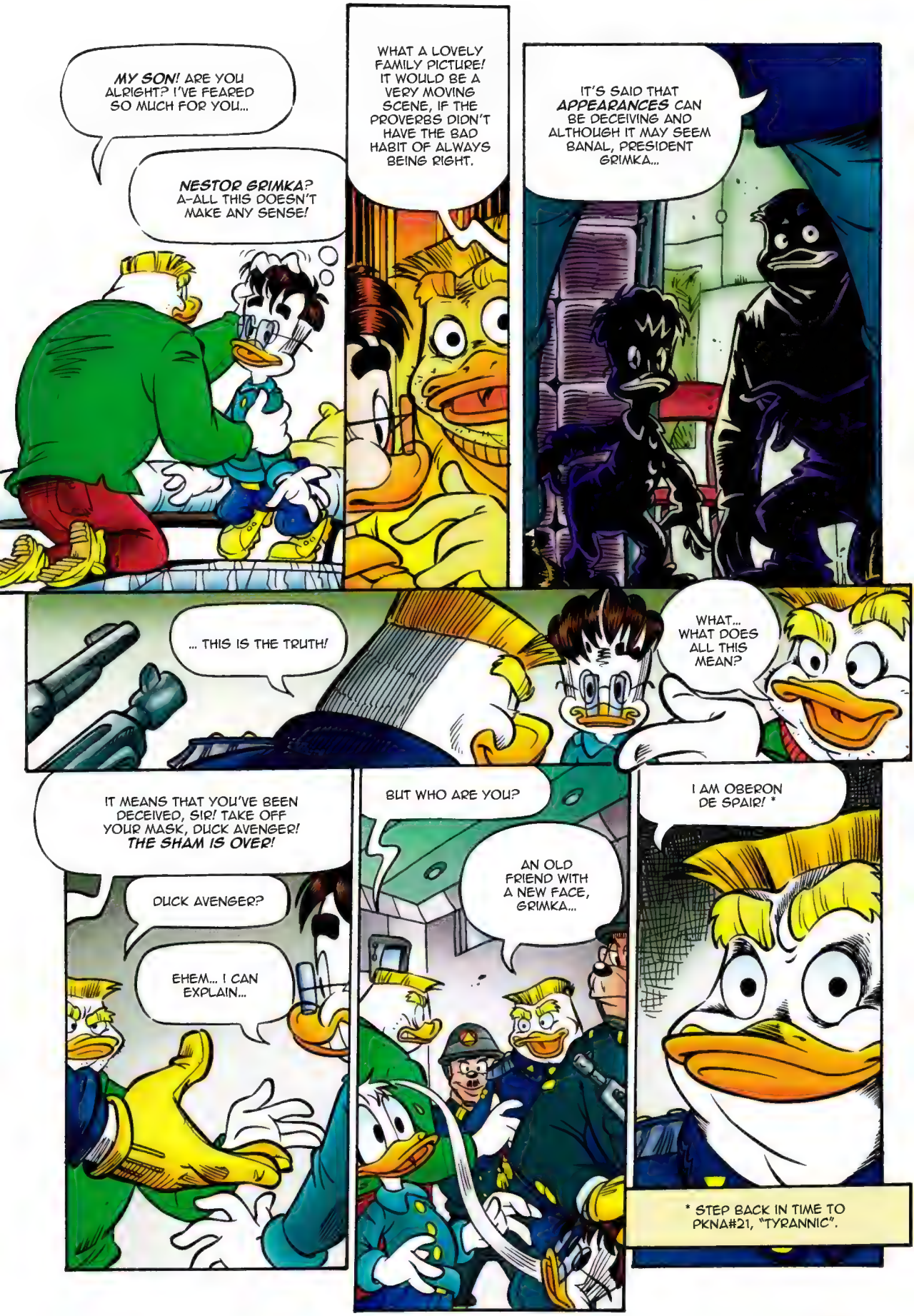
HELLO, ONE? DO YOU READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, MY FRIEND! I WAS EXPECTING TO HEAR FROM YOU AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR AGO! WHAT HAPPENED?
SGRUNT! UNEXPECTED THINGS HAPPENED AND...
HEY! NOW YOU WEAR THE MASK OUTSIDE SERVICE?
IT'S NOT A MASK! THEY'RE ORIGINAL BLACK EYES! AND THERE'S A FEROCIOUS BEAST IN THE LIVING ROOM!
ASIDE FROM THAT, HOW'S THE WEATHER THERE?
NEVER MIND THE WEATHER! THAT STUPID PBI DOSSIER IS INCOMPLETE! I RISKED GIVING MYSELF AWAY A THOUSAND TIMES!
PERHAPS GRIGORJI FORGOT TO PROVIDE SOME DETAILS, BUT TRY TO UNDERSTAND...
YOUNG GRIMKA IS A PRIVATE BOY AND AT THIS TIME VERY, VERY CONFUSED!
I'M ALSO RISKING FEATHERS FOR HIM! WHY HAVEN'T I'VE BEEN TOLD OF HIS TERRIBLE FIANCÉE?


BECAUSE IT WASN'T PLANNED THAT YOU'D TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH ELEMENTS OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY!
IT'S SHE WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH ME!
ONE MORE NAME TO REMEMBER IS ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO GET CONFUSED!
THANKS FOR THE CONFIDENCE. I MANAGED VERY WELL ALONE!
HERE I'LL FIND SOMETHING ABOUT THE ADORABLE LJUBA...
I DON'T HAVE RESP-ONSIBILITY IN THIS! IT WAS A CHOICE OF MISS COURIER!
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE I DON'T NEED TO KNOW OR CAN WE MOVE ON TO THE SECOND PHASE OF THE MISSION?
THIS IS THE MAP OF THE PALACE, COURTESY OF GRIGORJI'S DATABASE...
THE EAST WING IS RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM-SECURITY RESEARCH CENTER!
WE CAN SAY WITH GOOD APPROXIMATION THAT OPERATION HEPHAESTUS WAS BORN THERE.
AND SO THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING TO SNOOP!


I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
ME, NO, BUT GRIGORJI, YES! THE PRESIDENT'S SON CAN EASILY MOVE AROUND UNNOTICED...
TUNK
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
KRAK
I DON'T KNOW, ONE. BUT PERHAPS OUR GRIGORJI HASN'T TOLD US PRECISELY EVERYTHING...
I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER (Ugh...)
IT'S NIGHT ON BELGRAVIA. THE FEW SOUNDS OF THE SLEEPING CAPITAL BARELY GRAZES THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE...
... WHERE EVERYONE IS SLEEPING, INCLUDING THOSE WHO SHOULDN'T.
RRR... ZZZ... RRR...
TUMP TUMP TUMP
UH... SNORT... B-BUT WHO...
MR. GRIMKA! I... I WAS JUST...
"SLEEPING" IS THE EXACT WORD! BUT DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT HERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT...

I... UH... WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? THE LABORATORIES ARE EMPTY AT THIS HOUR AND...
DON'T BOTHER! IT'S JUST A COURTESY VISIT! LET ME ENTER!
OBEDIENT SOLDIER! HE WAS SPARED A NICE SHOT OF THE BRADIONIC PARALYZER...
PSSSSS
I MUST REMEMBER TO PROMOTE HIM TO CAPTAIN BEFORE LEAVING! THE ARMY NEEDS REASONABLE AND FORTUNATE PEOPLE!
ACCORDING TO GRIGORJI'S MAP, THIS SHOULD BE THE ACCESS TO THE UNDERGROUND LEVEL!
... OR THERE'S NO LONGER ANYTHING TO PROTECT! WHATEVER IT IS, OPERATION HEPHAESTUS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED SOMEWHERE ELSE!
EITHER THE BELGRAVIAN SCIENTISTS FEEL VERY SURE OF THEMSELVES...
FOR BEING AN ULTRA-PROTECTED CENTER, THE SURVEILLANCE LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED!
BZZZZZZZZ

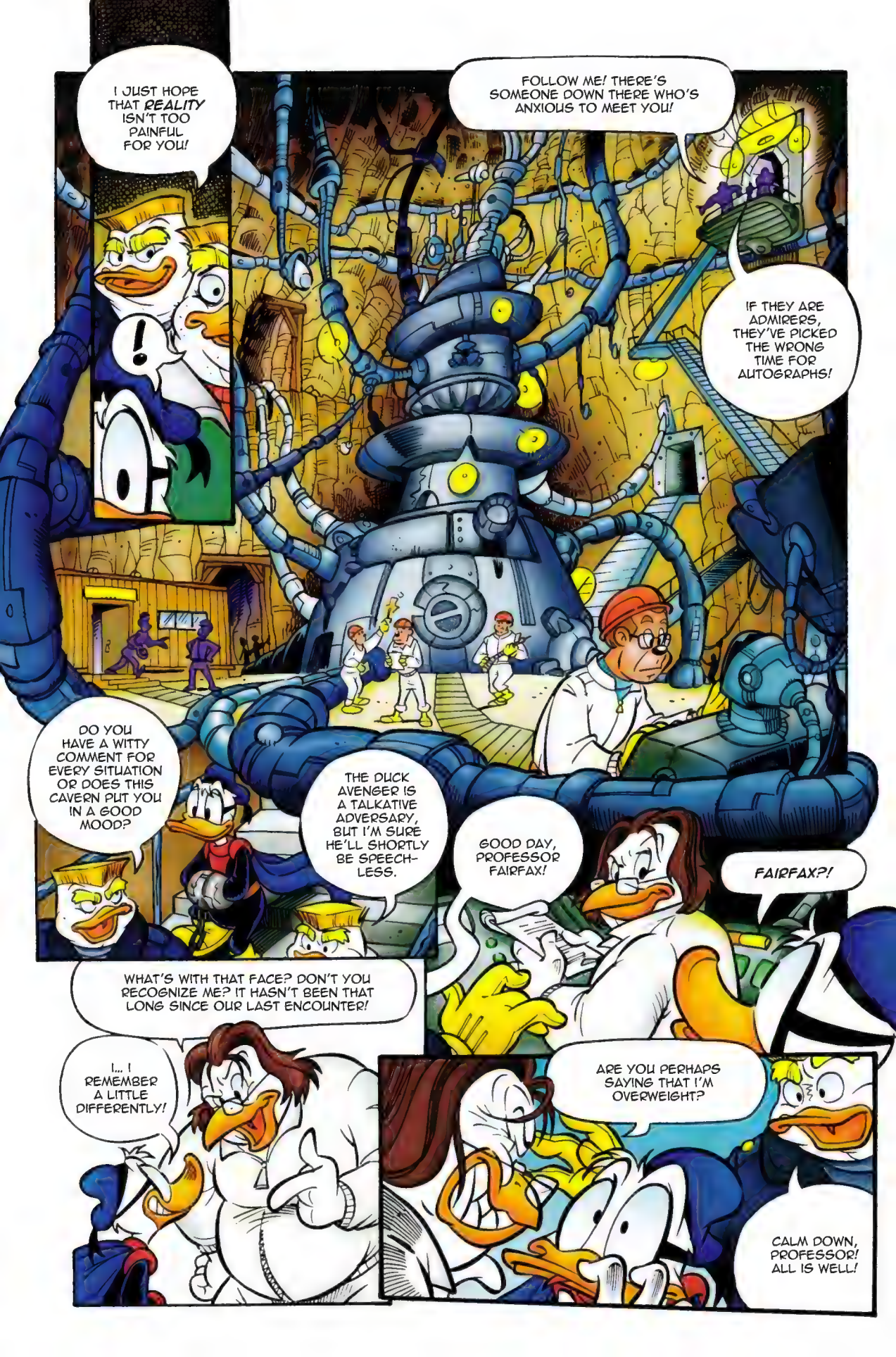

THE CONFUSION SPEAKS CLEARLY! ALL EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED!
THIS IS THE ONLY DOOR LOCKED! I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S AN ANSWER TO MY QUESTIONS IN THERE...
... BUT I'LL FIND OUT NOW!
SBRANG
W-WHO... WHO IS IT?
UH... IS THERE... SOMEONE HERE?
IT'S... IT'S NOT A JOKE, RIGHT? IT'S YOU?
COME CLOSER, PLEASE!
I-IT'S REALLY YOU, GRIGORJI!
!


MY SON! ARE YOU ALRIGHT? I'VE FEARED SO MUCH FOR YOU...
NESTOR GRIMKA? A-ALL THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
WHAT A LOVELY FAMILY PICTURE! IT WOULD BE A VERY MOVING SCENE, IF THE PROVERBS DIDN'T HAVE THE BAD HABIT OF ALWAYS BEING RIGHT.
IT'S SAID THAT APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING AND ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM BANAL, PRESIDENT GRIMKA...
... THIS IS THE TRUTH!
WHAT... WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?
IT MEANS THAT YOU'VE BEEN DECEIVED, SIR! TAKE OFF YOUR MASK, DUCK AVENGER! THE SHAM IS OVER!
DUCK AVENGER?
EHEM... I CAN EXPLAIN...
BUT WHO ARE YOU?
AN OLD FRIEND WITH A NEW FACE, GRIMKA...
I AM OBERON DE SPAIR! *
* STEP BACK IN TIME TO PKNA#21, "TYRANNIC".

FOR RESEMBLING YOU, AN EXOSKELETON WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME TALLER AND MORE CORPULENT. THEY PRODUCE GREAT THINGS. RIGHT, DUCK AVENGER?
WHY HAVE YOU DONE ALL THIS?
COME ON, NESTOR! OPERATION HEPHAESTUS! THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T OPPOSED TO IT! IF YOU HAD JUST GIVEN ME THE ACTIVATION CODES TO BELGRAVIA'S ARSENAL, YOU WOULD HAVE SAVED US A LOT OF TROUBLE!
BUT YOU WANTED TO PLAY THE TOUGH GUY ONE TOO MANY TIMES AND THEN WE WENT AFTER GRIGORJI! THE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT FAILED...
... BUT THE ARRIVAL OF THIS FAKER IN KEELBURG TURNED THE WIND OF FORTUNE IN OUR FAVOR!
BECAUSE OF THIS BUNGLER I FELL INTO YOUR TRAP!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY WITH THE INSULTS! I ALSO FELL INTO THE TRAP!
EXACTLY! THEREFORE YOU'RE A BUNGLER!

THE FAKE GRIGORJI WAS THE RIGHT INSTRUMENT OF PERSUASION TO MAKE YOU GIVE IN, BUT CONSOLE YOURSELF...
... THE WARHEAD CODES HAVE AFTER ALL ALWAYS BEEN UNDER CONTROL OF BELGRAVIA'S PRESIDENT! HA HA HA!
FROM INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST TO HEAD OF STATE! YOU'VE MADE A CAREER!
IT'S IN THE NATURE OF PEOPLE TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR FUTURE...
... THAT'S WHY MR. GRIMKA, AT THE END OF THIS ENDEAVOR, WILL CONTINUE TO GOVERN BELGRAVIA!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THOSE BOMBS?
THE ANSWER IS IN OPERATION HEPHAESTUS, DUCK AVENGER...
"... AND IT'S AN ANSWER YOU'LL KNOW SOON!"
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW

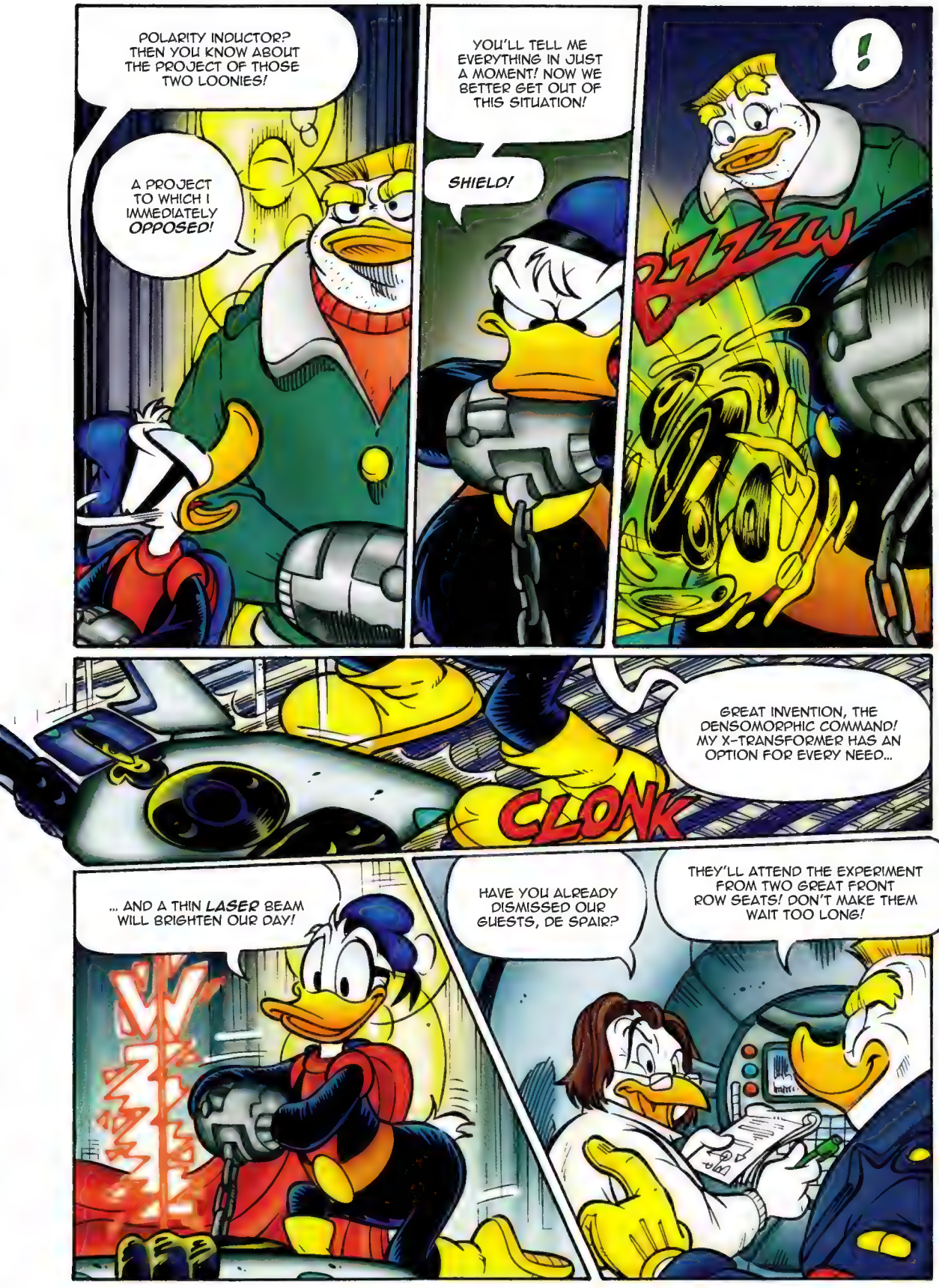
WE'RE AT THE OBJECTIVE, MR. DE SPAIR! TWO MINUTES TO LANDING!
OBSERVE, GRIMKA...
... DOWN THERE'S THE ISLAND OF HORNSKÜLL, A PIECE OF ROCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.
TOW TOW TOW TOW TOW TOW
WE SET UP OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS INSIDE AN OLD COALMINE! YOU'LL LIKE IT.
IF I SURVIVE, I'LL COME BACK HERE ON VACATION NEXT YEAR!
SPARE YOURSELF THE IRONY! AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, SPARE YOURSELF ANY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE!
THESE SOLDIERS COME FROM THE SELECT TROOPS OF BELGRAVIA'S ARMY AND ONLY OBEY MY ORDERS!
YOU DREAM WELL, GRIMKA! HA HA!
THESE SOLDIERS ARE TRAITORS LIKE YOU! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, DE SPAIR! SOONER OR LATER SOMEONE WILL DISCOVER YOUR GAME AND THEN YOU'LL BE FINISHED!


I JUST HOPE THAT *REALITY* ISN'T TOO PAINFUL FOR YOU!
FOLLOW ME! THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN THERE WHO'S ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!
IF THEY ARE ADMIRERS, THEY'VE PICKED THE WRONG TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHS!
DO YOU HAVE A WITTY COMMENT FOR EVERY SITUATION OR DOES THIS CAVERN PUT YOU IN A GOOD MOOD?
THE DUCK AVENGER IS A TALKATIVE ADVERSARY, BUT I'M SURE HE'LL SHORTLY BE SPEECH-LESS.
GOOD DAY, PROFESSOR FAIRFAX!
FAIRFAX?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER!
I... I REMEMBER A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY!
ARE YOU PERHAPS SAYING THAT I'M OVERWEIGHT?
CALM DOWN, PROFESSOR! ALL IS WELL!

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HE'S NOT AS BEFORE AFTER THE EVENTS OF THE TYRANNIC. HIS MIND IS BRILLIANT AS USUAL, OF COURSE...
... BUT HIS CHARACTER IS CONSIDERABLY WORSE!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET OUT OF THAT SITUATION?
THE MISSION HAD ENDED IN FAILURE, WITH THE SINKING OF THE SUBMARINE.
YOU AND FAIRFAX REFUSED TO ABANDON THE TYRANNIC.
"YES, BECAUSE WE ALREADY HAD A WAY TO ESCAPE! BEFORE LOCKING OURSELVES IN THE ISOLATION ROOM WE SENT AN SOS TO BELGRAVIA..."
"IN THE CAPSULE, DESIGNED TO RESIST THE ENORMOUS PRESSURE OF THE OCEAN FLOOR, WE WAITED FOR THE RESCUE..."
PLIC
"AND IT WAS A LONG WAIT. I PASSED THE TIME BY READING AND WRITING, WHILE FAIRFAX..."
... DID NOTHING BUT EAT THE ENTIRE TIME! STRESS SOMETIMES PLAYS NASTY TRICKS! RIGHT, PRESIDENT?
MY ERROR WAS NOT KILLING YOU AT THE RIGHT TIME, DE SPAIR!

YOU'RE UNFAIR, SIR! I HAVE ALWAYS FAITHFULLY SERVED BELGRAVIA'S CAUSE!
IF YOU HADN'T PULLED BACK, OPERATION HEPHAESTUS WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR MASTERPIECE! BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP!
WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS EQUIPMENT?
WELL... THE EXPLANATION IS RATHER COMPLICATED, DUCK AVENGER...
SO, CONSIDERING YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE THIS VALE OF TEARS, DON'T BLAME ME IF I FOR ONCE SAVE MY BREATH!
MOVE IT! IT'S TIME TO GO!
HEY! WHERE ARE THE TALKATIVE MAD SCIENTISTS FOR ONCE?
TIMES CHANGE, DUCK! BUT HAVE NO FEAR...
... SOON ALL YOUR DOUBTS WILL BE... DISSOLVED! HA HA HA!
GET IN!

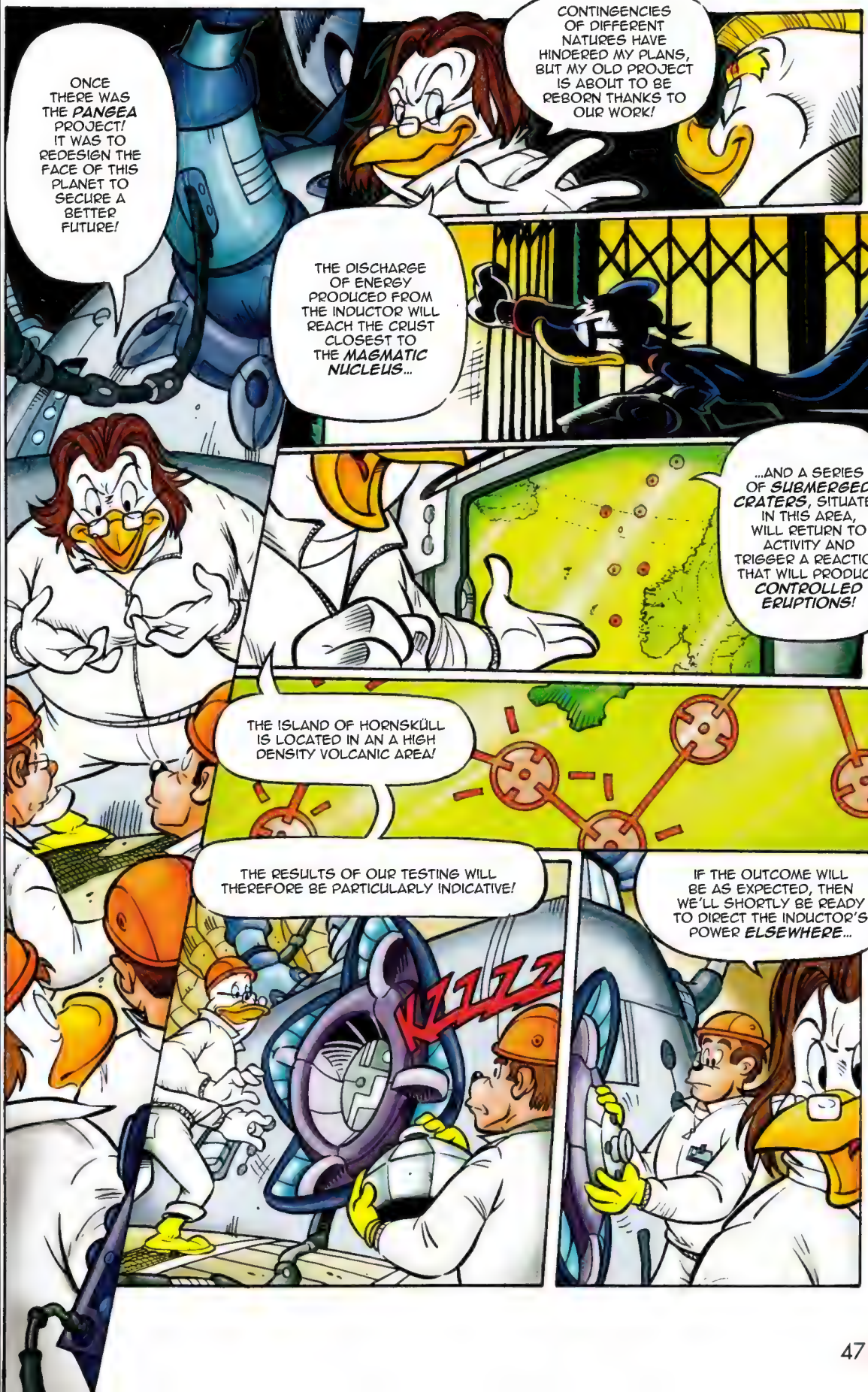
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, DE SPAIR? IF THAT WAS A JOKE, I DON'T GET IT!
IT WASN'T A JOKE, DUCK AVENGER! IT WAS A THREAT!
GUK
YOU'LL GO DOWN A TUNNEL IN THIS ELEVATOR! THERE BEATS THE BRILLIANT HEART OF OPERATION HEPHAESTUS!
IT'S LIGHT WILL DAZZLE YOU... AND IT WILL BE THE LAST THING YOU'LL SEE!
PROCEED.
TLAK
GOODBYE, GENTLEMEN!
WRRRRR
WHATEVER'S DOWN THERE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I NEED TO WORRY!
IT'S MORE CORRECT TO SAY THAT IT'S THE END, DUCK! THE POLARITY INDUCTOR WON'T LET US ESCAPE!

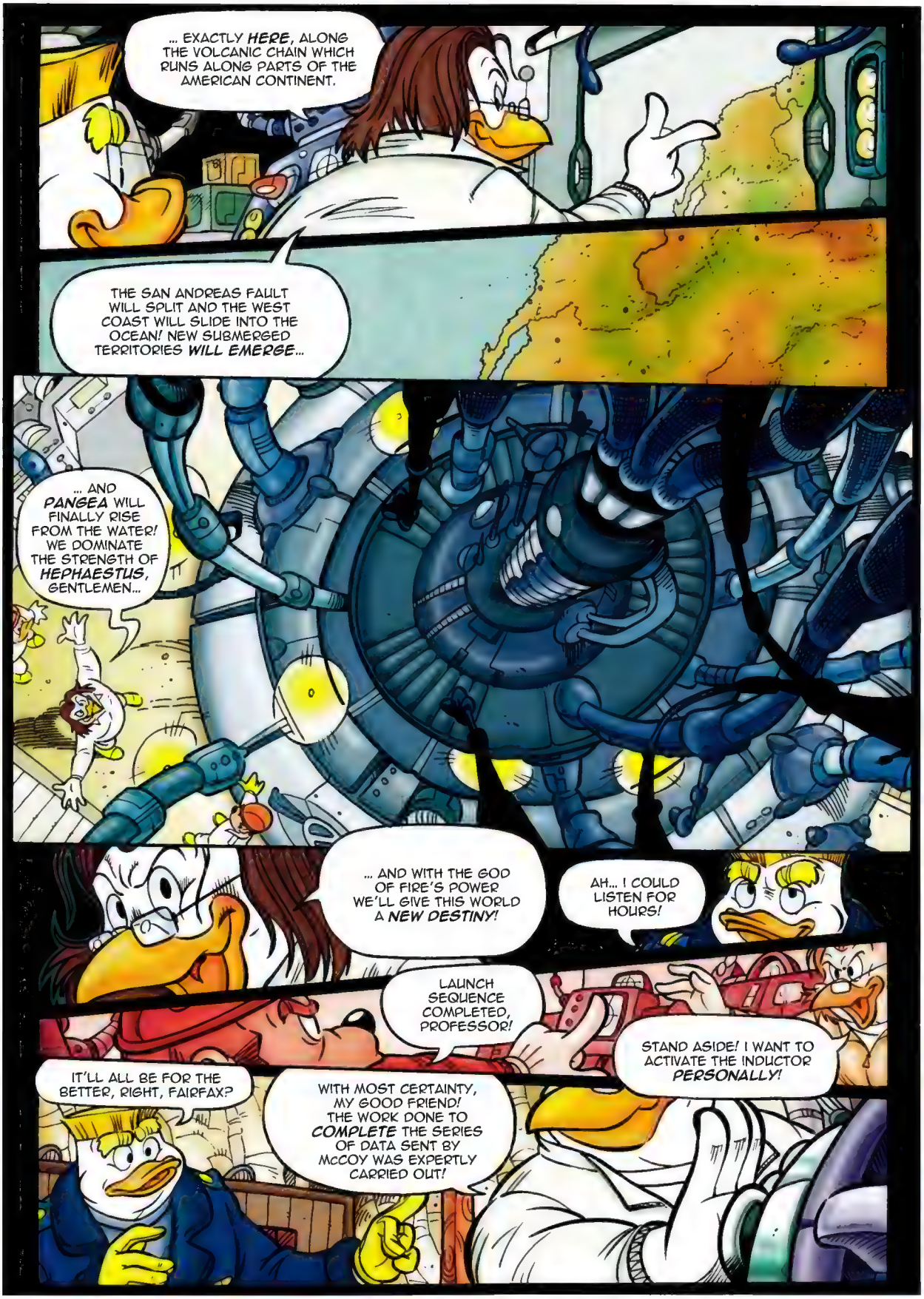

POLARITY INDUCTOR? THEN YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PROJECT OF THOSE TWO LOONIES!
A PROJECT TO WHICH I IMMEDIATELY OPPOSED!
YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING IN JUST A MOMENT! NOW WE BETTER GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION!
SHIELD!
!
ZZZZW
GREAT INVENTION, THE DENSOMORPHIC COMMAND! MY X-TRANSFORMER HAS AN OPTION FOR EVERY NEED...
CLONK
... AND A THIN LASER BEAM WILL BRIGHTEN OUR DAY!
HAVE YOU ALREADY DISMISSED OUR GUESTS, DE SPAIR?
THEY'LL ATTEND THE EXPERIMENT FROM TWO GREAT FRONT ROW SEATS! DON'T MAKE THEM WAIT TOO LONG!

CLEAR THE AREA! FROM THIS MOMENT I ONLY WANT THE TECHNICAL STAFF WITH ME!
THE SETTING OF THE INDUCTOR IS COMPLETE, PROFESSOR!
GREAT! UNLOCK THE FILTERS OF THE CONDUCTORS AND INITIATE THE LAUNCH SEQUENCE...
DONE! DO YOU HAVE OTHER REQUIREMENTS, SIR?
SURE! BRING ME A MERINGUE AND BARLEY WATER! ALL THIS ACTIVITY HAS MADE ME HUNGRY!
OUR RIDE ENDS HERE!
DONE! HOLD ON TO ME NOW, GRIMKA!
TCHAK

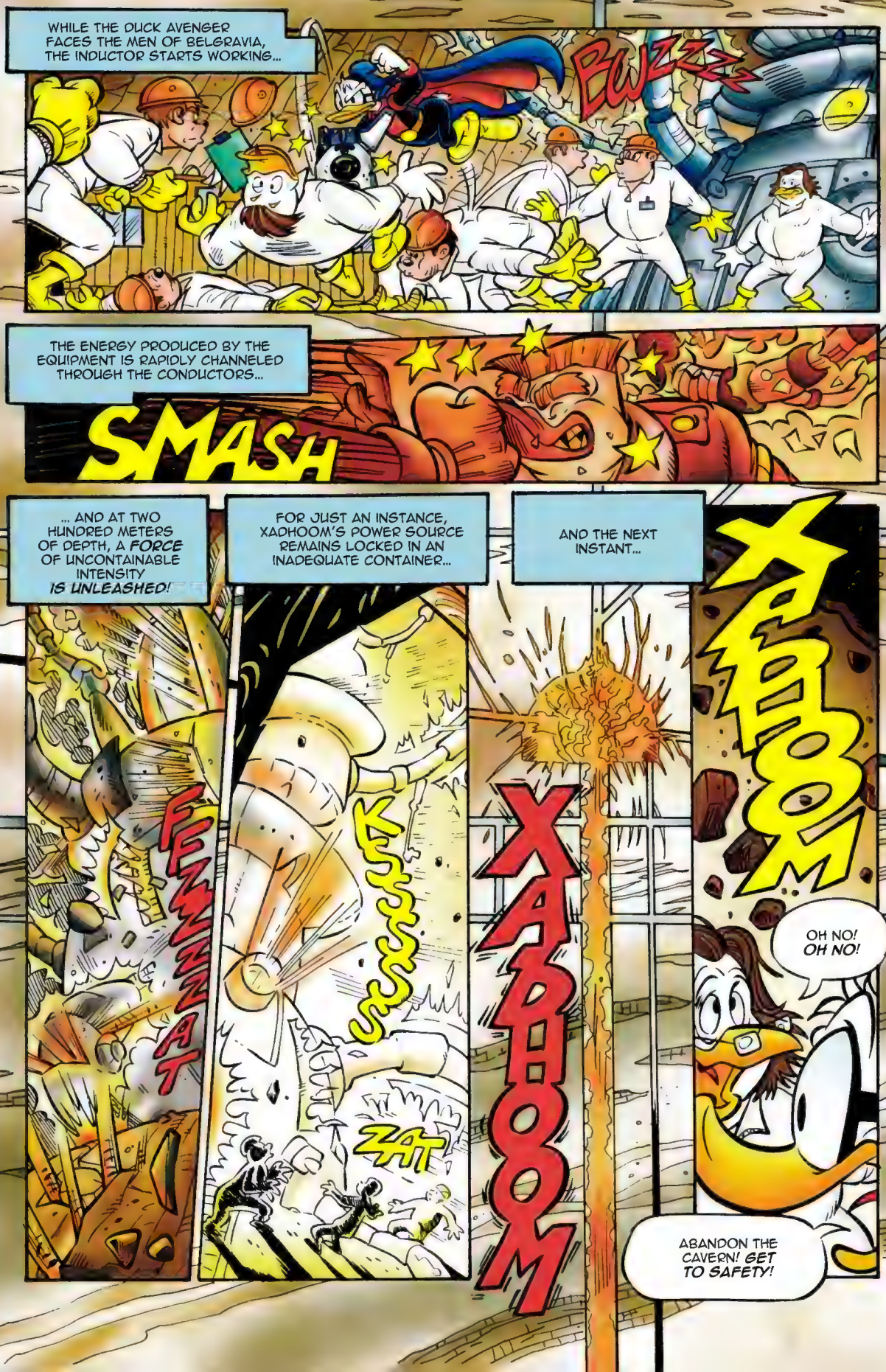
BONK
HERE WE ARE! PANT... WE'LL MAKE A STOP IN THAT PIPE BEFORE WE CLIMB BACK TO THE SURFACE!
WHERE... PANT... WERE WE?
OPERATION HEPHAESTUS... PUFF... MAYBE THERE'S STILL TIME TO STOP IT!
FIRST I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS. DON'T YOU THINK?
IT ALL STARTED WHEN ONE OF OUR SPIES SENT US TOP SECRET MATERIAL IN POSSESSION OF YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY...
I KNOW THE STORY OF LIEUTENANT McCOY.
THOSE FILES CONTAINED EXTRAORDINARY INFORMATION! THE SECRET OF A SUPERIOR FORM OF ENERGY...
... THE RECIPE FOR DEVELOPING A DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER! FAR TOO DANGEROUS!
IT'S FUNNY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT! I THOUGHT THIS WAS YOUR KIND OF THING!

MY COUNTRY PRODUCES WEAPONS, TERROR AND DESTRUCTION! GLOBAL DEVASTATION DOESN'T INTEREST ME.
OH, SURE! THE PROTECTION OF CUSTOMERS COMES FIRST!
FOR PRODUCING AND CONTROLLING THE NEW FORM OF ENERGY, FAIRFAX HAS DEVELOPED THE POLARITY INDUCTOR!
FOR POWERING IT, THE URANIUM FROM SOME OF BELGRAVIA'S NUCLEAR WARHEADS WAS NEEDED!
I'M THE ONLY ONE POSSESSING THE ATOMIC ARSENAL CODES AND I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN THEM TO HIM, IF I HADN'T BEEN FORCED THROUGH DECEPTION!
IF KNOWING CAN COMFORT YOU, YOUR SON GRIGORJI IS SAFE AND SOUND IN A PROTECTED STRUCTURE.
AH! YOU RETURNED LIFE TO ME!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY ALL THIS IS HAPPENING...
"... BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'LL GIVE US ALL THE INFORMATION!"
THE TIMING IS IMPORTANT, GENTLEMEN...

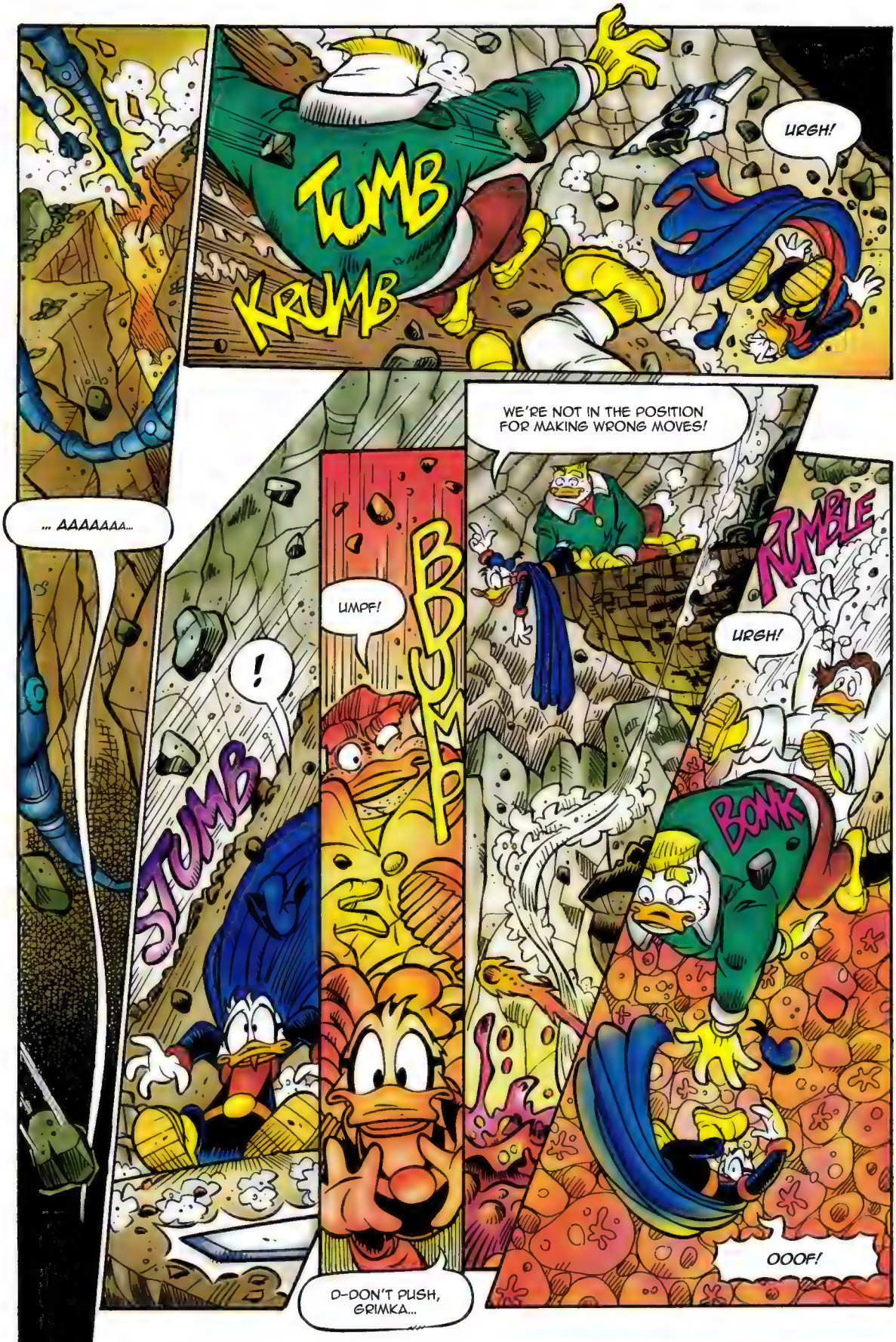

ONCE THERE WAS THE PANGEA PROJECT! IT WAS TO REDESIGN THE FACE OF THIS PLANET TO SECURE A BETTER FUTURE!
CONTINGENCIES OF DIFFERENT NATURES HAVE HINDERED MY PLANS, BUT MY OLD PROJECT IS ABOUT TO BE REBORN THANKS TO OUR WORK!
THE DISCHARGE OF ENERGY PRODUCED FROM THE INDUCTOR WILL REACH THE CRUST CLOSEST TO THE MAGMATIC NUCLEUS...
...AND A SERIES OF SUBMERGED CRATERS, SITUATED IN THIS AREA, WILL RETURN TO ACTIVITY AND TRIGGER A REACTION THAT WILL PRODUCE CONTROLLED ERUPTIONS!
THE ISLAND OF HORNSKÜLL IS LOCATED IN AN A HIGH DENSITY VOLCANIC AREA!
THE RESULTS OF OUR TESTING WILL THEREFORE BE PARTICULARLY INDICATIVE!
IF THE OUTCOME WILL BE AS EXPECTED, THEN WE'LL SHORTLY BE READY TO DIRECT THE INDUCTOR'S POWER ELSEWHERE...
KZZZZ


... EXACTLY HERE, ALONG THE VOLCANIC CHAIN WHICH RUNS ALONG PARTS OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.
THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT WILL SPLIT AND THE WEST COAST WILL SLIDE INTO THE OCEAN! NEW SUBMERGED TERRITORIES WILL EMERGE...
... AND PANGEA WILL FINALLY RISE FROM THE WATER! WE DOMINATE THE STRENGTH OF HEPHAESTUS, GENTLEMEN...
... AND WITH THE GOD OF FIRE'S POWER WE'LL GIVE THIS WORLD A NEW DESTINY!
AH... I COULD LISTEN FOR HOURS!
LAUNCH SEQUENCE COMPLETED, PROFESSOR!
STAND ASIDE! I WANT TO ACTIVATE THE INDUCTOR PERSONALLY!
IT'LL ALL BE FOR THE BETTER, RIGHT, FAIRFAX?
WITH MOST CERTAINTY, MY GOOD FRIEND! THE WORK DONE TO COMPLETE THE SERIES OF DATA SENT BY McCOY WAS EXPERTLY CARRIED OUT!

COMPLETE? THAT MEANS THAT FAIRFAX WITHOUT KNOWING INTERVENED ON A PHYSICAL REACTION OF ALIEN ORIGIN!
STOP, FAIRFAX!
THEM AGAIN! DIDN'T YOU SAY THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN CARE OF?
I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT, PROFES-SOR!
BEHIND ME, GRIMKA!
POW-PAW BOW
THIS TIME YOU'RE TOO LATE, DUCK AVENGER!
KOAP
THIS TIME I'VE WON! HA HA HA!
AH, YES? WE'LL SEE!
STUMP
WELL SAID!
YOU DEAL WITH FAIRFAX! THIS IMPOSTOR IS MINE!
THE COPY IS OFTEN BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL, PRESIDENT! AND YOU DON'T YET KNOW HOW MUCH!


WHILE THE DUCK AVENGER FACES THE MEN OF BELGRAVIA, THE INDUCTOR STARTS WORKING...
BUZZZZ
THE ENERGY PRODUCED BY THE EQUIPMENT IS RAPIDLY CHANNELED THROUGH THE CONDUCTORS...
SMASH
... AND AT TWO HUNDRED METERS OF DEPTH, A FORCE OF UNCONTAINABLE INTENSITY IS UNLEASHED!
FOR JUST AN INSTANCE, XADHOOM'S POWER SOURCE REMAINS LOCKED IN AN INADEQUATE CONTAINER...
AND THE NEXT INSTANT...
FENNNNAT
SSSSSSSK
ZAT
XADHOOM
XADHOOM
OH NO! OH NO!
ABANDON THE CAVERN! GET TO SAFETY!

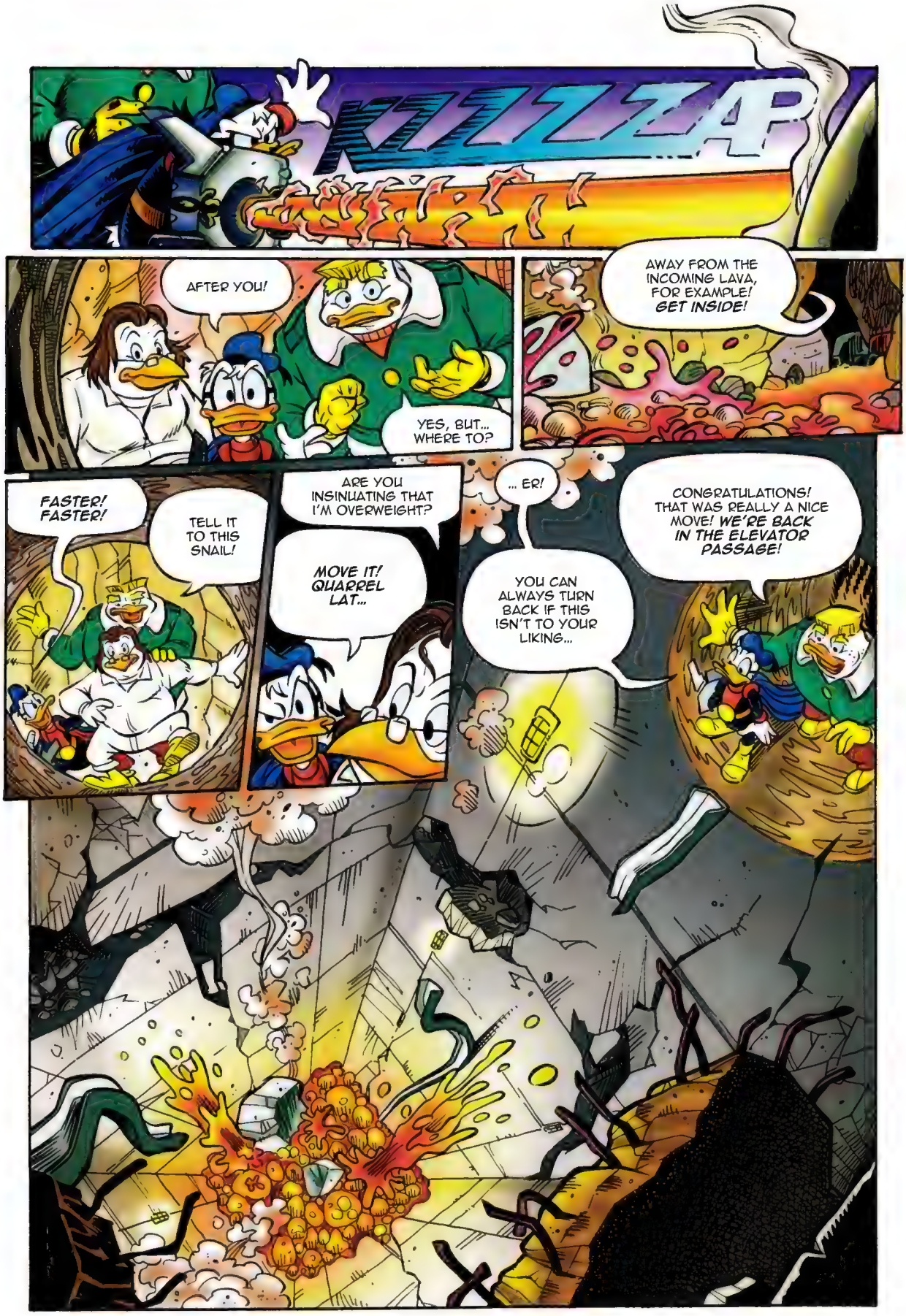
SKA BRANG
BUT WHY MUST IT ALWAYS END LIKE THIS?
HAVEN'T YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE HYPOTHESIS OF BEING UNLUCKY?
HOW... HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT!
YOU PLAYED WITH SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOU, FAIRFAX!
BY THE GODS!
AND DON'T SAY IT ISN'T TRUE!
KRAKRAK
THIS WAY! JUMP!
COME ON, FAIRFAX! LET OUT THE KANGAROO INSIDE YOU!
I... I... ALRIGHT! COMING!
KRABOOM
BUMP
GOOD! AND NOW LET'S...
... AAAAAAAH...
BRUMP


TUMB
KRUMB
URGH!
WE'RE NOT IN THE POSITION FOR MAKING WRONG MOVES!
... AAAAAAA...
UMPF!
BUMP
!
TUMB
RUMBLE
URGH!
BONK
OOOF!
D-DON'T PUSH, GRIMKA...

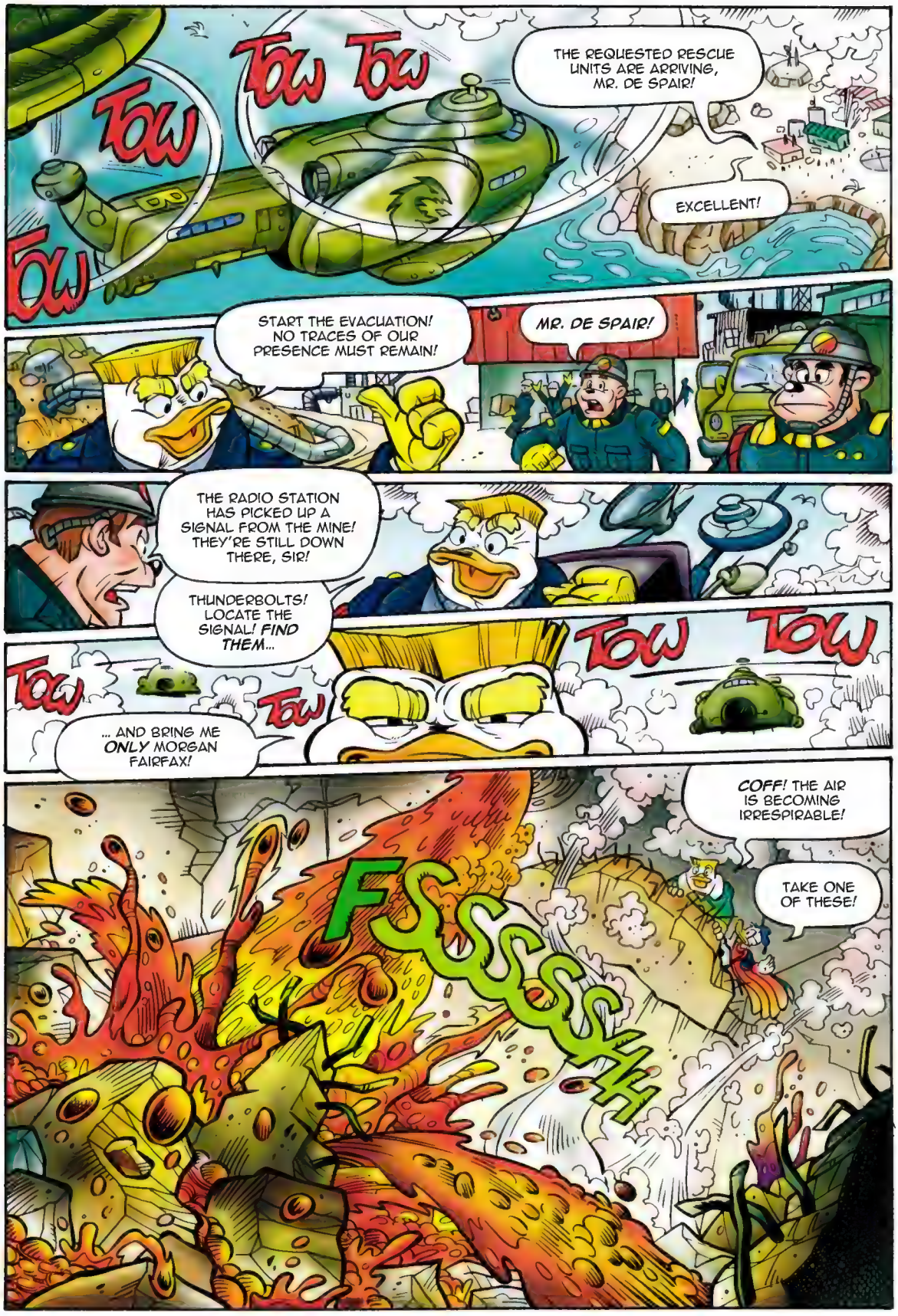
YOU CLUMSY BUNGLER... PULL US UP!
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I'LL DO NO SUCH THING! HA HA HA!
PERHAPS THE AMAZING SHIELD CAN HELP YOU OUT OF THIS UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION...
... BUT I THINK THIS TIME YOU'LL HAVE TO MANAGE WITHOUT IT! GOODBYE, PEOPLE!
!
I ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE...
... AND I WON'T LET IT SLIP BY!
YES!
FUOOOM

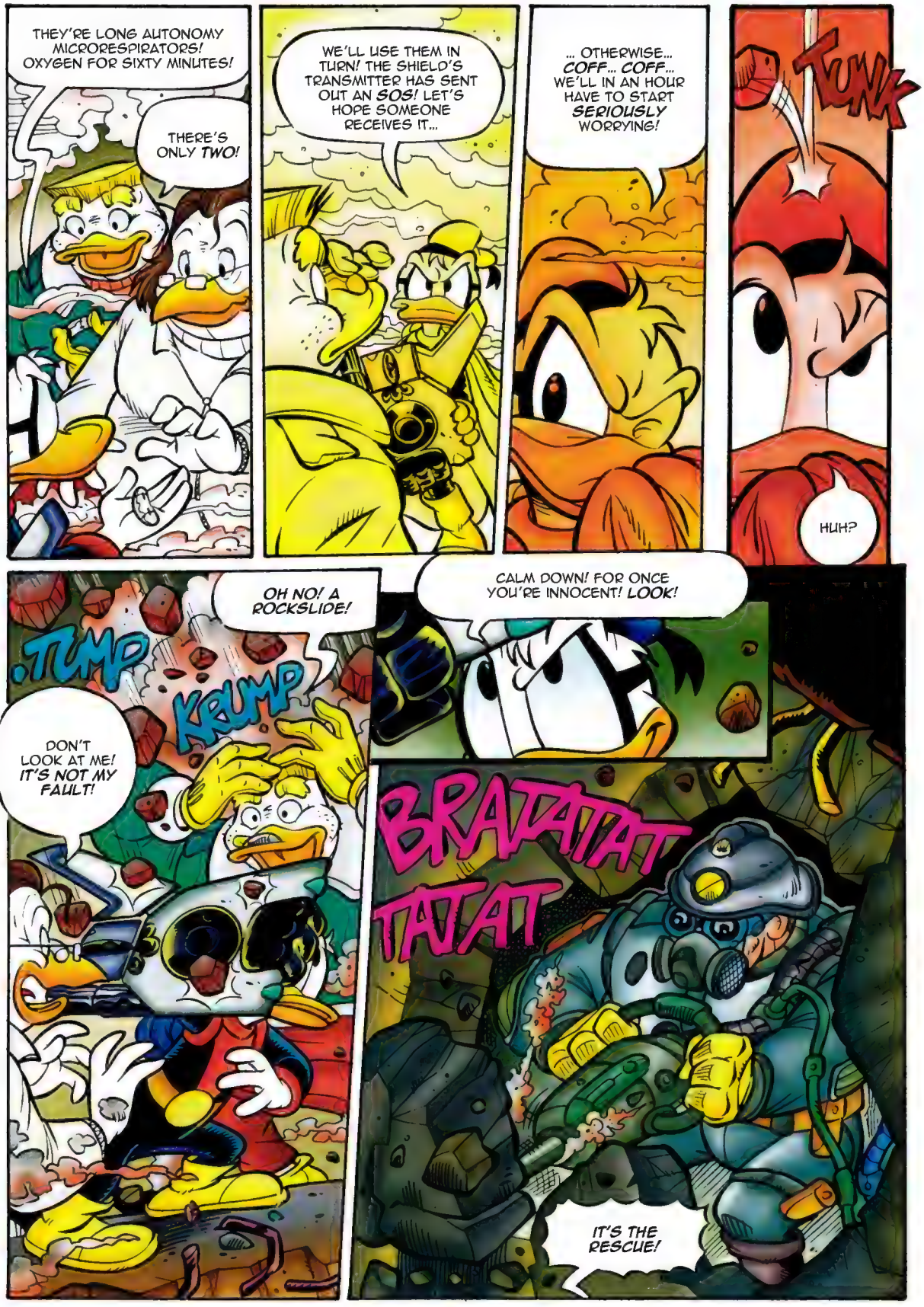
FAIRFAAAX! GET BACK HERE! I... I...
... CAN'T HOLD ON ANY MORE...
RELAX, GRIMKA! IT'S NOT OVER YET!
WHOOSH
DUCK AVENGER!
WE'RE ALL STILL HERE! EVEN THAT SCOUNDREL ISN'T TOO FAR WAY!
NARROW PASSAGE, FAIRFAX? LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND!
GNNN... OUFF...
HEY!
WELL? I DIDN'T SPECIFY WHICH!
SBLM
YOU DESERVE TO FRY IN THAT CAULDRON!
SAVE YOURSELF THE EFFORT, PRESIDENT...

BUBBLOM
THE INDUCTOR HAS... RELEASED THAT SEA OF LAVA! THE LEVEL IS RAPIDLY RISING!
IT'S NORMAL! THE PRESSURE DECREASES AND THE GAS IS FREE TO EXPLODE!
IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THAT LAVA TO REACH THE SURFACE! IT'S VERY FLUID... I'D SAY IT'S BASALTIC MAGMA!
FANTASTIC! KNOWING THAT THERE'S NOT JUST ONE KIND OF MAGMA, CAN WE NOW MOVE ON?
THERE EXITS FOUR TYPES OF MAGMA! BASALTIC, ANDESITIC, RHYOLITIC AND PICRITIC...
BAD NEWS. THE TUNNEL ENDS HERE!
NOT AT ALL! I'LL OPEN A PATH, BUT I'LL DO IT MY WAY! STAND BACK!
KK
WE'RE TRAPPED!

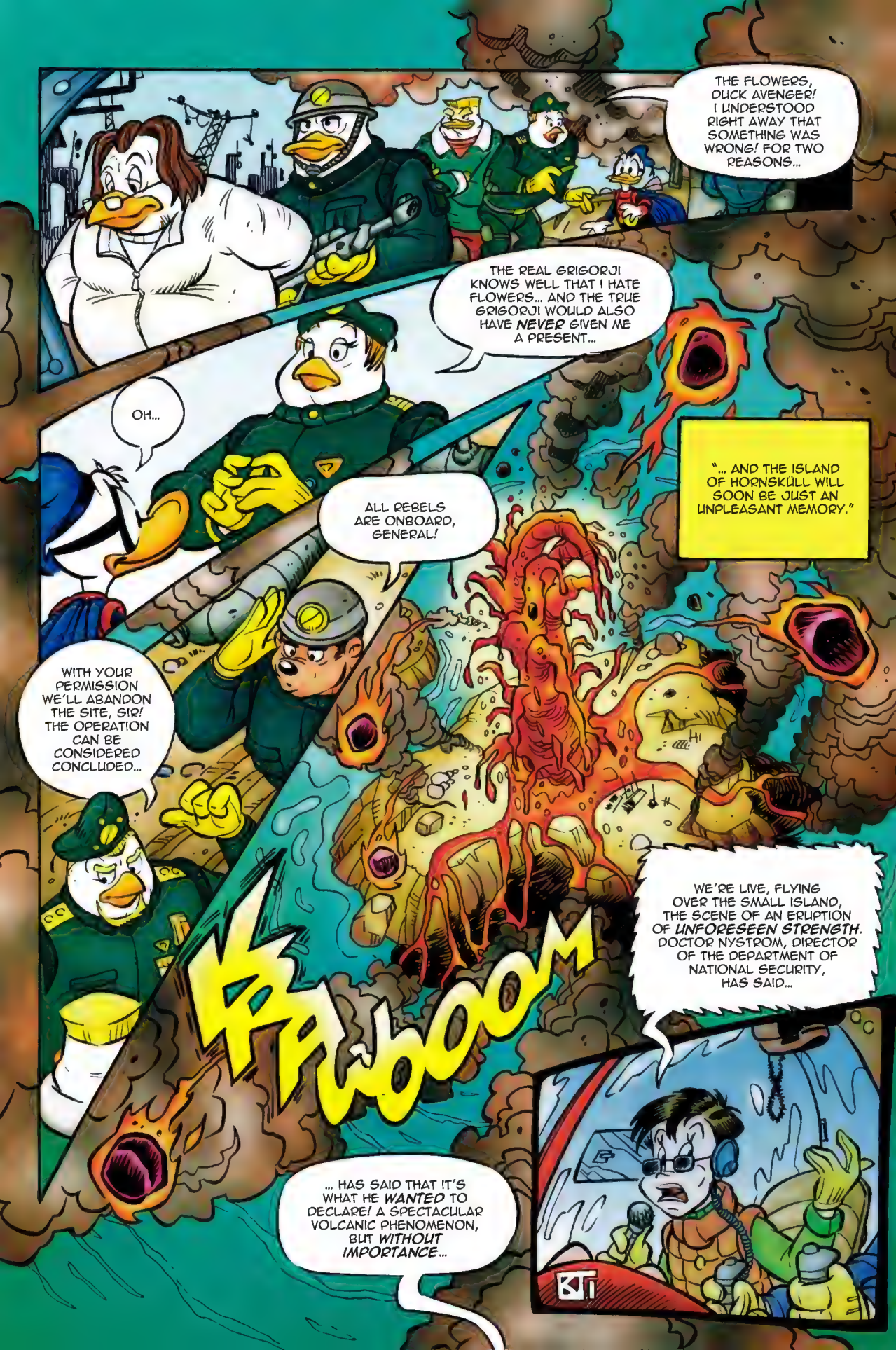

KIZZAP
AFTER YOU!
YES, BUT... WHERE TO?
AWAY FROM THE INCOMING LAVA, FOR EXAMPLE! GET INSIDE!
FASTER! FASTER!
TELL IT TO THIS SNAIL!
ARE YOU INSINUATING THAT I'M OVERWEIGHT?
MOVE IT! QUARREL LAT...
... ER!
YOU CAN ALWAYS TURN BACK IF THIS ISN'T TO YOUR LIKING...
CONGRATULATIONS! THAT WAS REALLY A NICE MOVE! WE'RE BACK IN THE ELEVATOR PASSAGE!

... BUT IF I WERE YOU I'D *MOVE* QUICKLY!
FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE, HUH?
THE ENTRANCE TO THE PIPE SEEMS TO HAVE COLLAPSED! I NEED SOME TIME TO CLEAR THE RUBBLE...
LITERALLY.
... BUT THE LAVA LEVEL IS *RISING!*
A *PLUG* OF ROCK WILL SLOW IT DOWN A LITTLE! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN DO TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS.
SSSSH
FSHHHHM
KLLLZAP
RRUMBLE

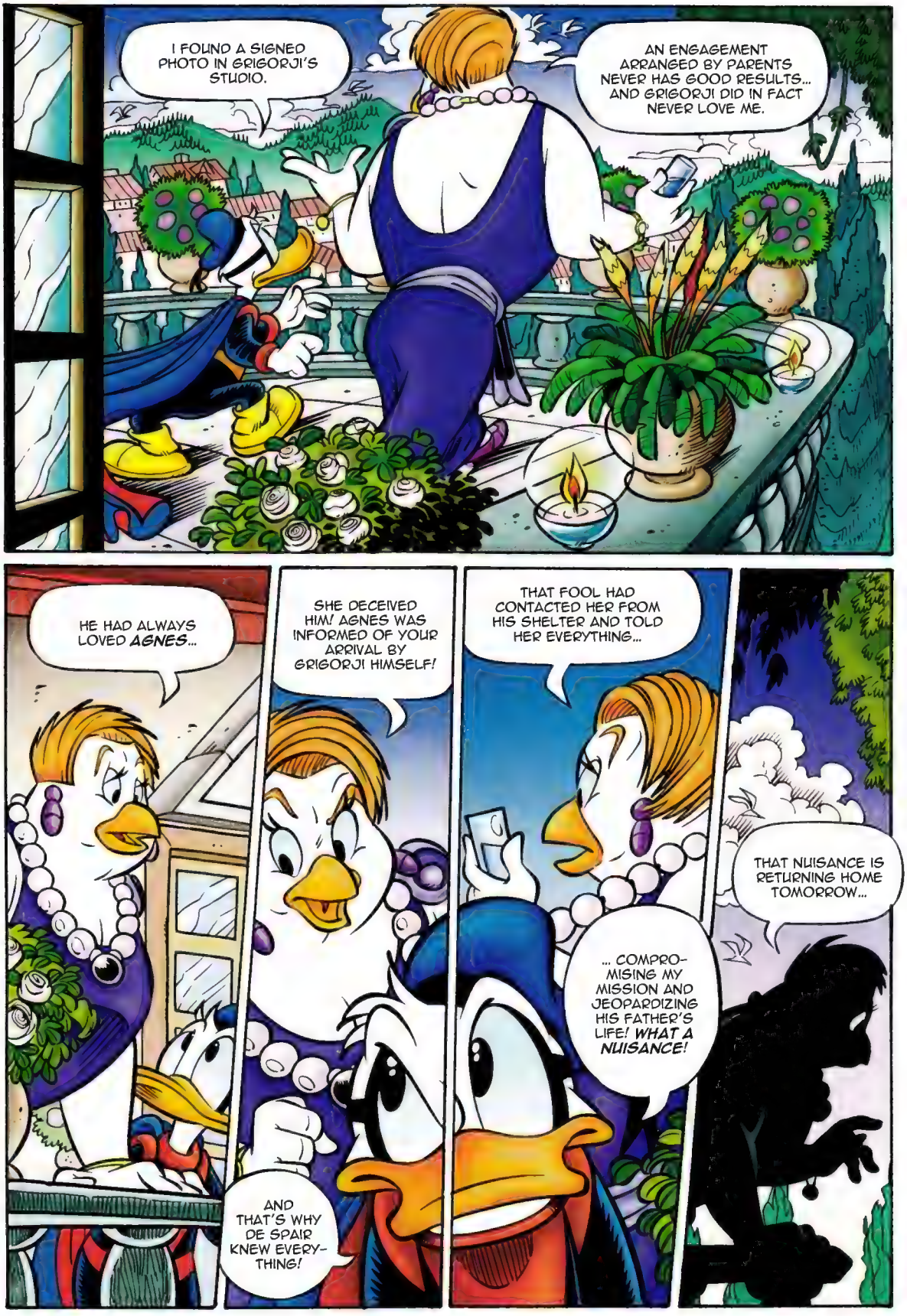

TOW TOW
TOW
THE REQUESTED RESCUE UNITS ARE ARRIVING, MR. DE SPAIR!
EXCELLENT!
START THE EVACUATION! NO TRACES OF OUR PRESENCE MUST REMAIN!
MR. DE SPAIR!
THE RADIO STATION HAS PICKED UP A SIGNAL FROM THE MINE! THEY'RE STILL DOWN THERE, SIR!
THUNDERBOLTS! LOCATE THE SIGNAL! FIND THEM...
TOW TOW
TOW TOW
... AND BRING ME ONLY MORGAN FAIRFAX!
COFF! THE AIR IS BECOMING IRRESPIRABLE!
TAKE ONE OF THESE!
FSSSSSSH

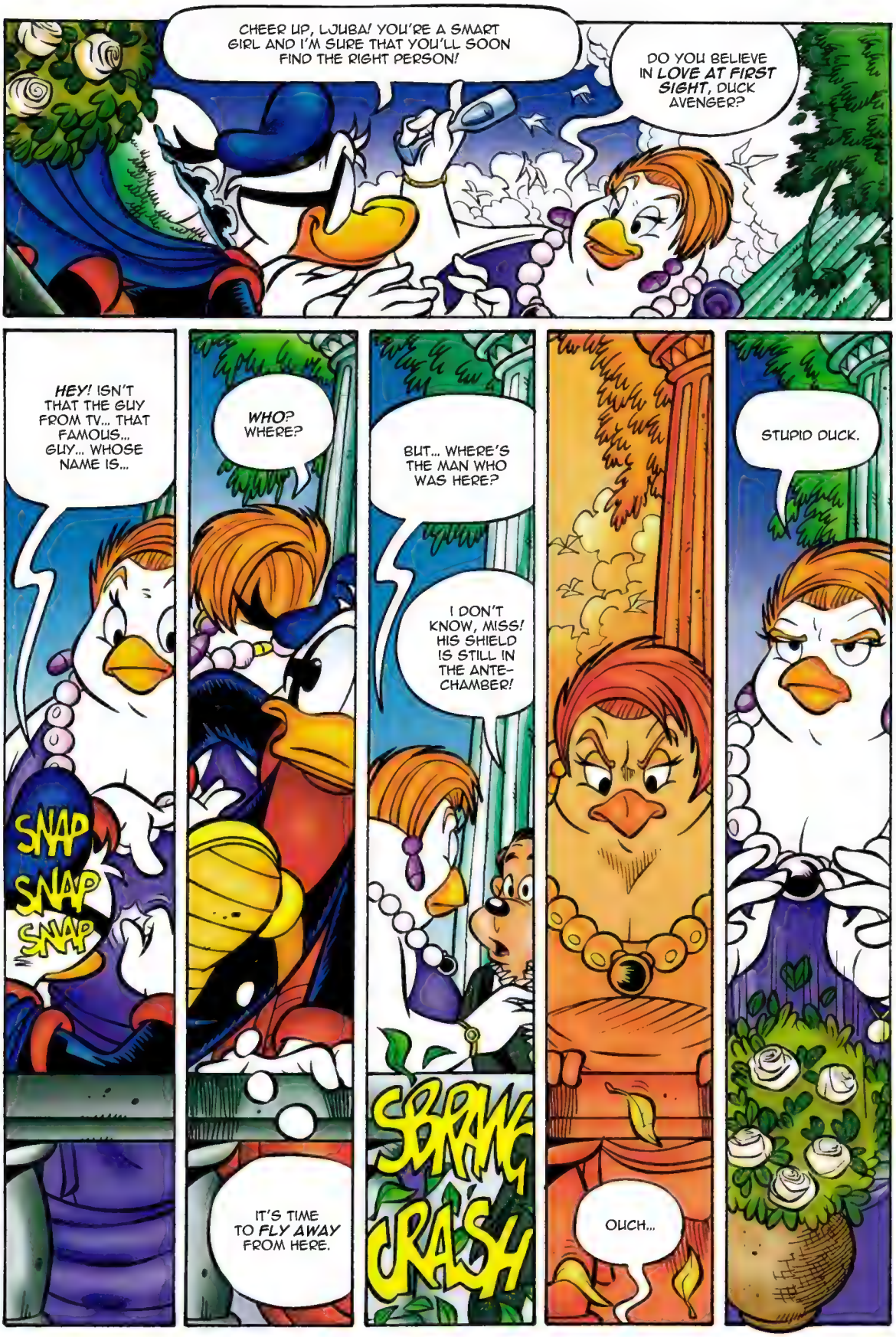

THEY'RE LONG AUTONOMY MICRORESPIRATORS! OXYGEN FOR SIXTY MINUTES!
THERE'S ONLY *TWO!*
WE'LL USE THEM IN TURN! THE SHIELD'S TRANSMITTER HAS SENT OUT AN *SOS!* LET'S HOPE SOMEONE RECEIVES IT...
... OTHERWISE... *COFF... COFF...* WE'LL IN AN HOUR HAVE TO START *SERIOUSLY* WORRYING!
TUNK
HUH?
CALM DOWN! FOR ONCE YOU'RE INNOCENT! *LOOK!*
OH NO! A ROCKSLIDE!
TUMP
KRUMP
DON'T LOOK AT ME! *IT'S NOT MY FAULT!*
BRATATATAT
TATAT
IT'S THE RESCUE!

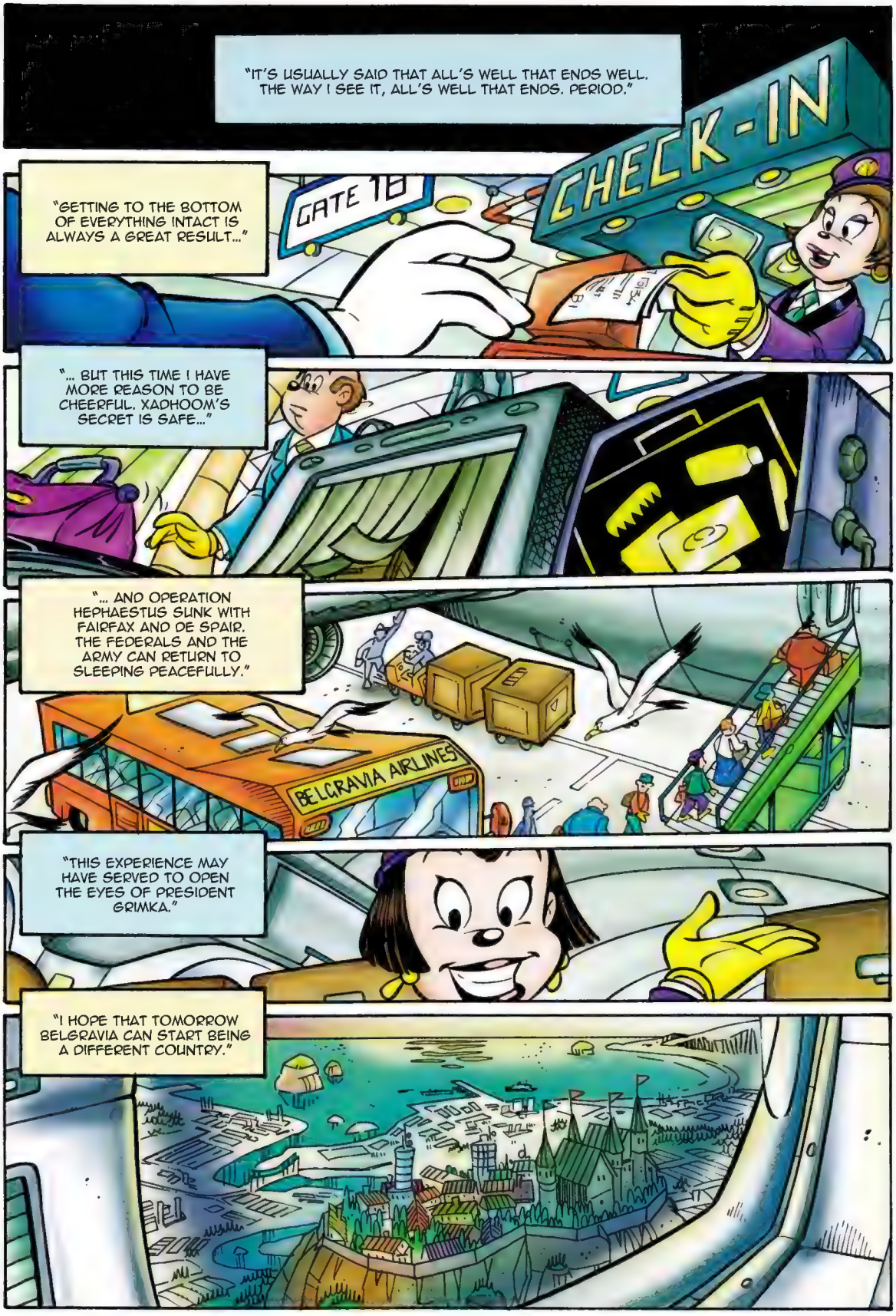
THIS WAY, GUYS! PULL ME UP, QUICK!
OH, WE'LL DEFINITELY HELP YOU FIRST, PROFESSOR FAIRFAX...
... BECAUSE YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, SIR!
LATER...
IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LJUBA!
ONCE AGAIN THE CAVALRY CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME!
ASSAULT INFANTRY, DUCK AVENGER! THE GLORIOUS SPECIAL CORPS OF BELGRAVIA...
... AT YOUR SERVICE AS ALWAYS, PRESIDENT GRIMKA!
GENERAL GASTROPOV! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY DAUGHTER, SIR! IT WAS SHE WHO PUT US ON ALERT!

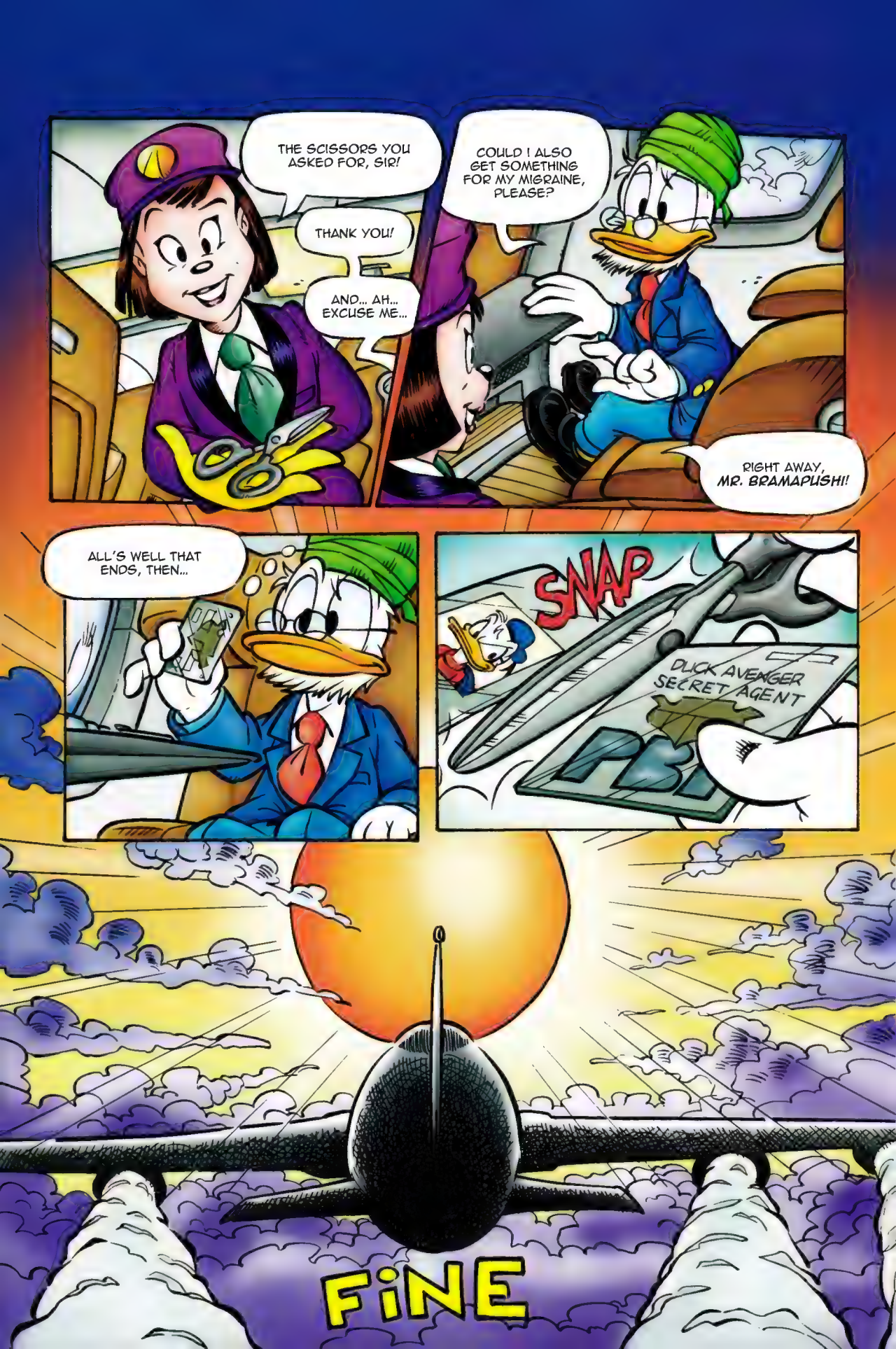

THE FLOWERS, DUCK AVENGER! I UNDERSTOOD RIGHT AWAY THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG! FOR TWO REASONS...
THE REAL GRIGORJI KNOWS WELL THAT I HATE FLOWERS... AND THE TRUE GRIGORJI WOULD ALSO HAVE NEVER GIVEN ME A PRESENT...
OH...
ALL REBELS ARE ONBOARD, GENERAL!
"... AND THE ISLAND OF HORNSKÜLL WILL SOON BE JUST AN UNPLEASANT MEMORY."
WITH YOUR PERMISSION WE'LL ABANDON THE SITE, SIR! THE OPERATION CAN BE CONSIDERED CONCLUDED...
KABOOM
WE'RE LIVE, FLYING OVER THE SMALL ISLAND, THE SCENE OF AN ERUPTION OF UNFORESEEN STRENGTH. DOCTOR NYSTROM, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY, HAS SAID...
... HAS SAID THAT IT'S WHAT HE WANTED TO DECLARE! A SPECTACULAR VOLCANIC PHENOMENON, BUT WITHOUT IMPORTANCE...

NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT HORNSKÜLL!
DE SPAIR AND FAIRFAX ARE SAFELY BEHIND BARS IN COMPANY WITH THEIR LOYAL MEN, SIR!
I HAVE TO THANK YOU! ACCEPT THE ORDER OF THE RED DRAGON OF BELGRAVIA AS A SMALL TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE!
I'M HONORED, PRESIDENT...
... I'LL SHARE IT WITH MY LJUBA! HER SUSPICIONS PUT US ON THE RIGHT TRACK!
SOME EPISODES HAD ALREADY ALARMED US AND WE WENT INTO ACTION AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DUCK WHO IMPERSONATED YOUR SON.
I LEARNED THAT SUPERINTENDENT KORBA HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ALL THIS!
YEAH! AND IF YOU'D ALLOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT ELSEWHERE...
YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
YES. AND HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?


I FOUND A SIGNED PHOTO IN GRIGORJI'S STUDIO.
AN ENGAGEMENT ARRANGED BY PARENTS NEVER HAS GOOD RESULTS... AND GRIGORJI DID IN FACT NEVER LOVE ME.
HE HAD ALWAYS LOVED AGNES...
SHE DECEIVED HIM! AGNES WAS INFORMED OF YOUR ARRIVAL BY GRIGORJI HIMSELF!
THAT FOOL HAD CONTACTED HER FROM HIS SHELTER AND TOLD HER EVERYTHING...
... COMPROMISING MY MISSION AND JEOPARDIZING HIS FATHER'S LIFE! WHAT A NUISANCE!
THAT NUISANCE IS RETURNING HOME TOMORROW...
AND THAT'S WHY DE SPAIR KNEW EVERYTHING!


CHEER UP, LJUBA! YOU'RE A SMART GIRL AND I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL SOON FIND THE RIGHT PERSON!
DO YOU BELIEVE IN *LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT*, DUCK AVENGER?
HEY! ISN'T THAT THE GUY FROM TV... THAT FAMOUS... GUY... WHOSE NAME IS...
SNAP SNAP SNAP
WHO? WHERE?
IT'S TIME TO *FLY AWAY* FROM HERE.
BUT... WHERE'S THE MAN WHO WAS HERE?
I DON'T KNOW, MISS! HIS SHIELD IS STILL IN THE ANTE-CHAMBER!
SBRANG CRASH
OUCH...
STUPID DUCK.

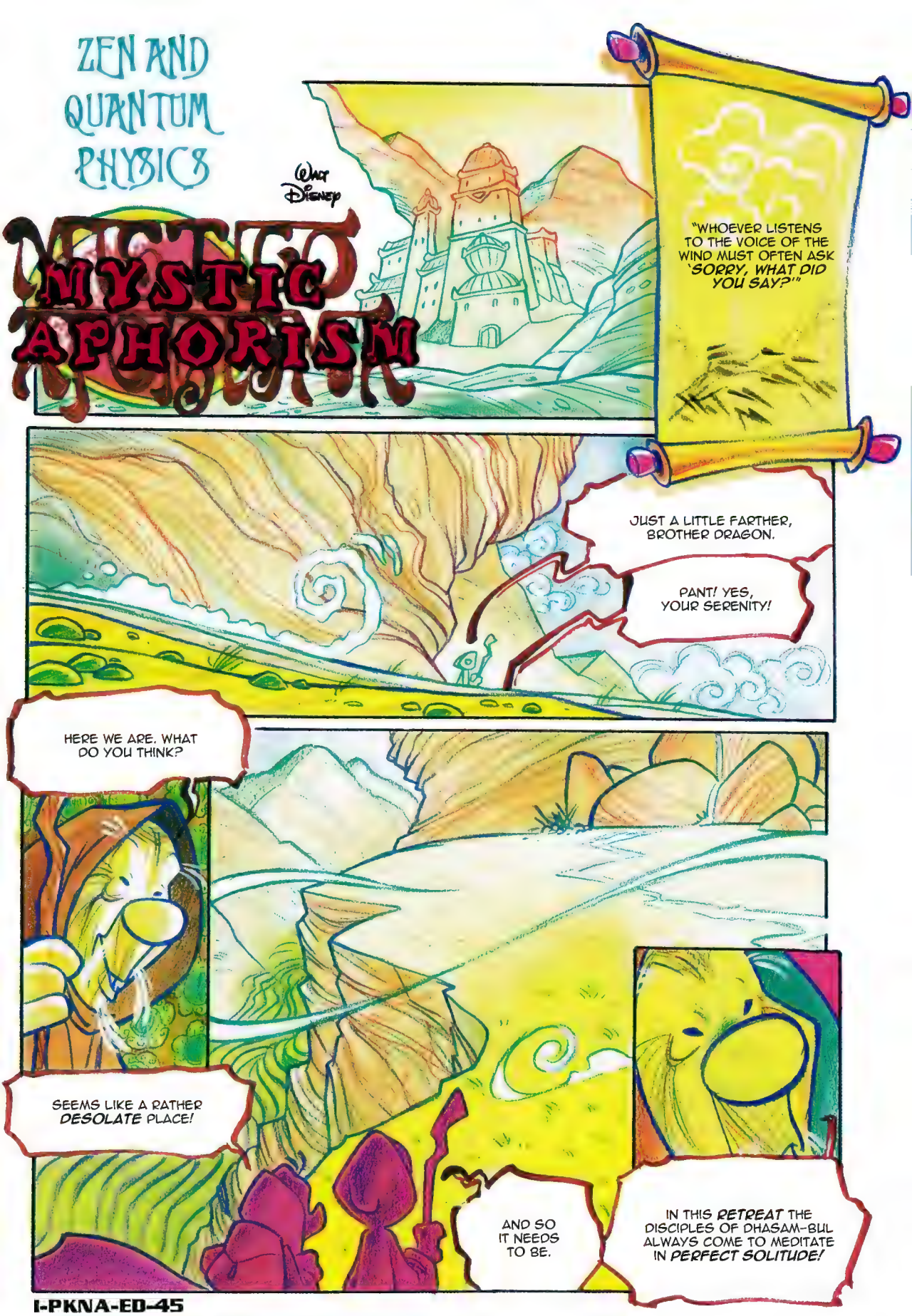

"IT'S USUALLY SAID THAT ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. THE WAY I SEE IT, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS. PERIOD."
"GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF EVERYTHING INTACT IS ALWAYS A GREAT RESULT..."
GATE 18
CHECK-IN
"... BUT THIS TIME I HAVE MORE REASON TO BE CHEERFUL. XADHOOM'S SECRET IS SAFE..."
"... AND OPERATION HEPHAESTUS SUNK WITH FAIRFAX AND DE SPAIR. THE FEDERALS AND THE ARMY CAN RETURN TO SLEEPING PEACEFULLY."
BELGRAVIA AIRLINES
"THIS EXPERIENCE MAY HAVE SERVED TO OPEN THE EYES OF PRESIDENT GRIMKA."
"I HOPE THAT TOMORROW BELGRAVIA CAN START BEING A DIFFERENT COUNTRY."


THE SCISSORS YOU ASKED FOR, SIR!
THANK YOU!
AND... AH... EXCUSE ME...
COULD I ALSO GET SOMETHING FOR MY MIGRAINE, PLEASE?
RIGHT AWAY, MR. BRAMAPUSH!!
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS, THEN...
SNAP
DUCK AVENGER SECRET AGENT
FINE

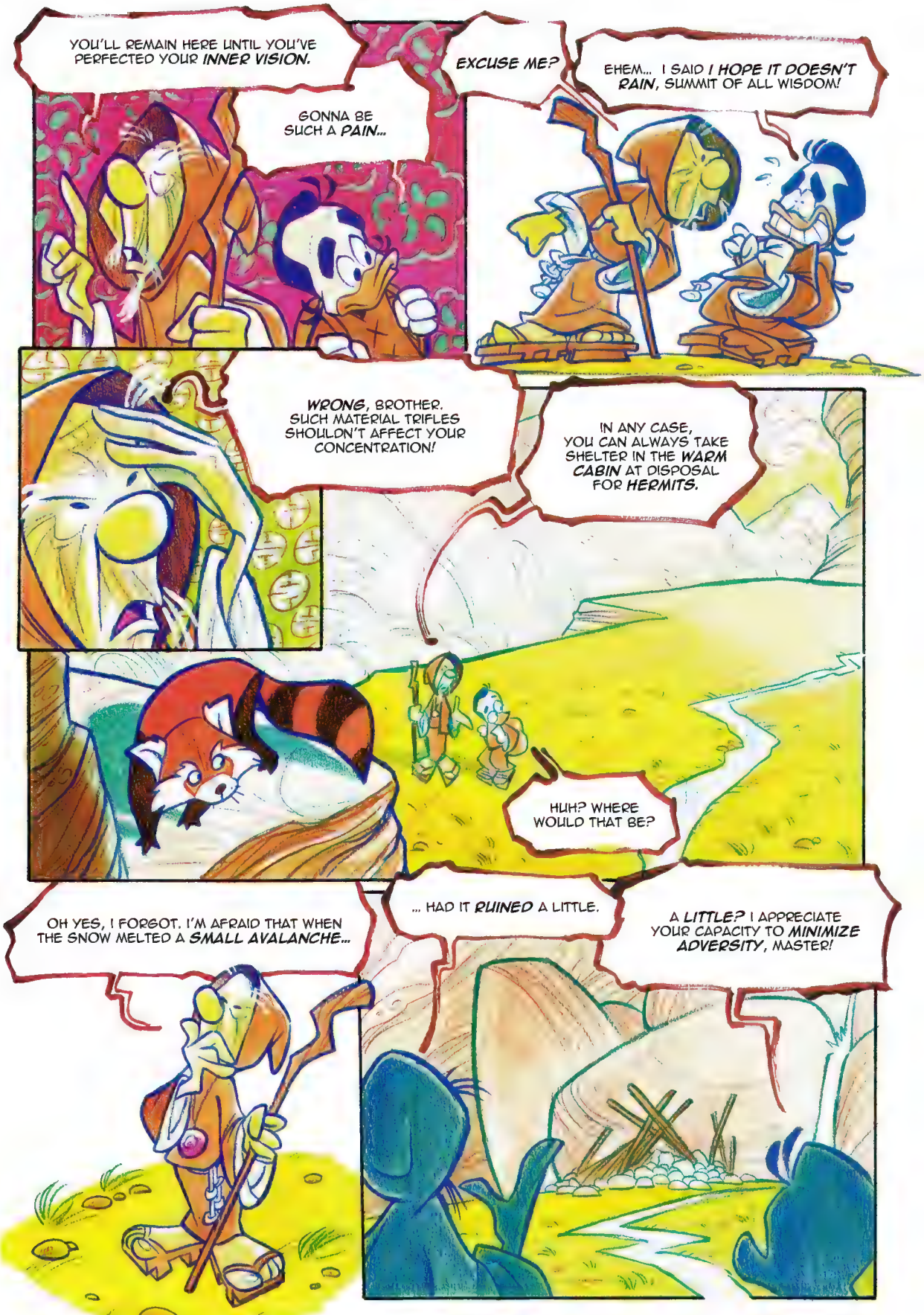
ZEN AND QUANTUM PHYSICS

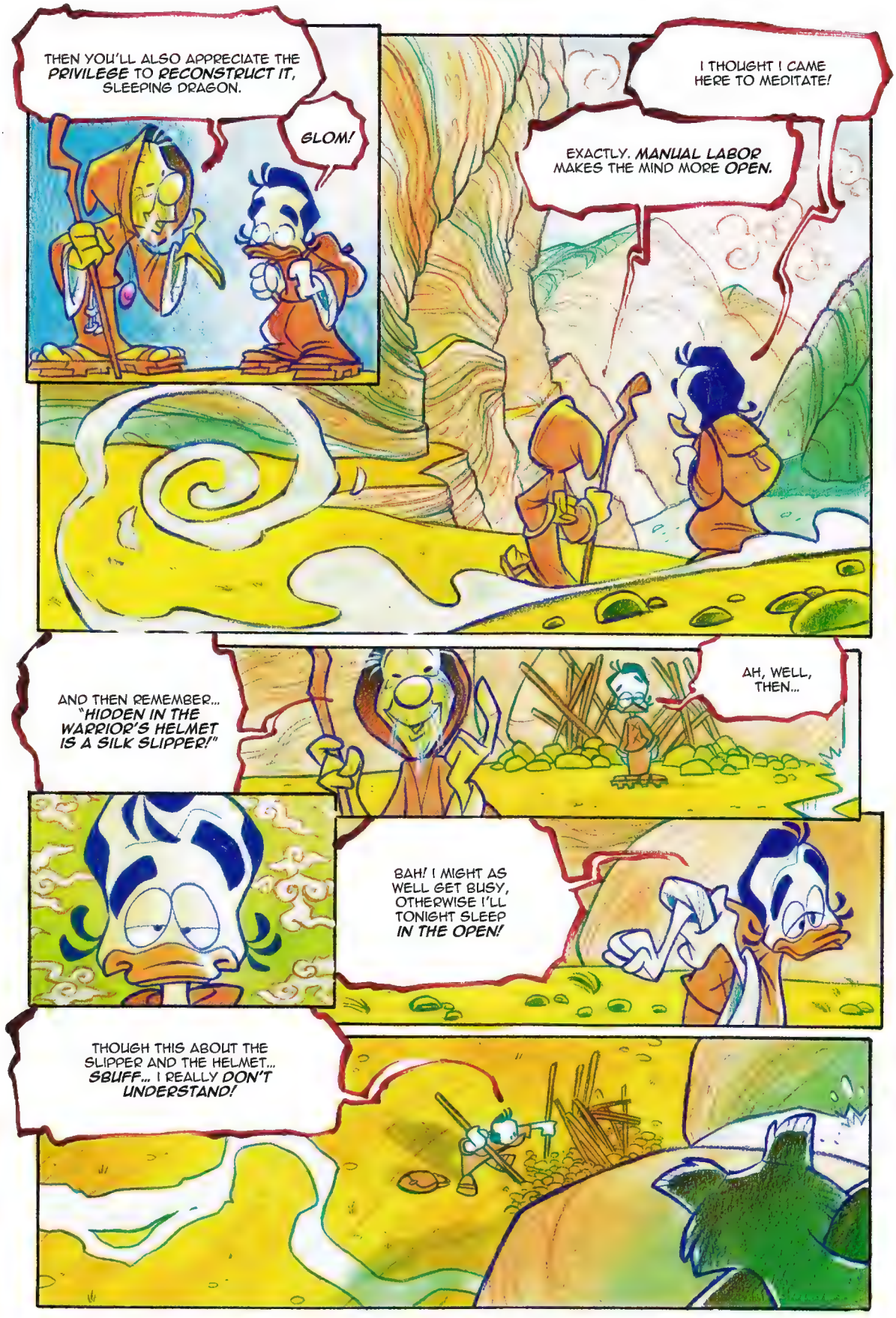
Walt Disney

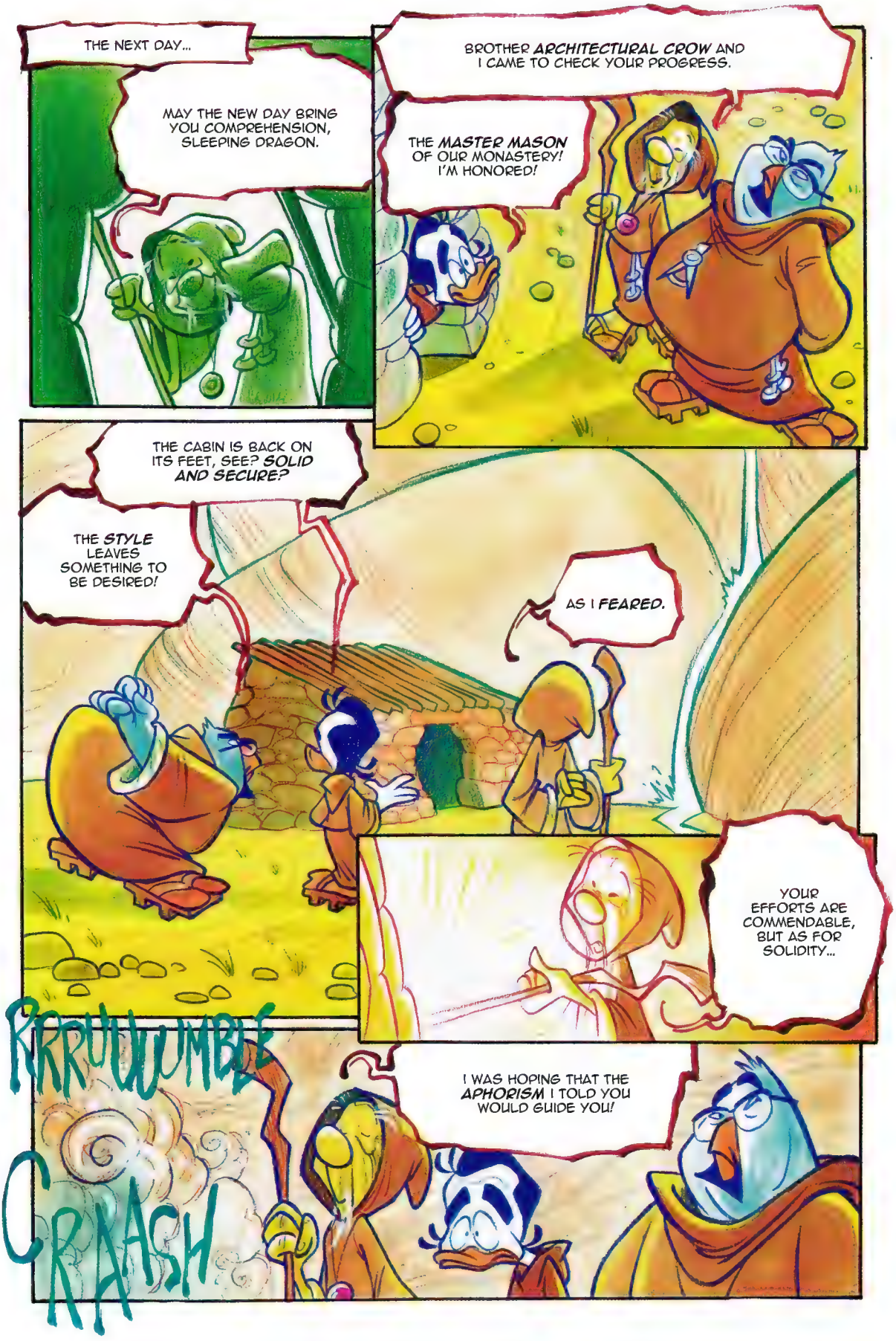
MYSTIC APHORISM

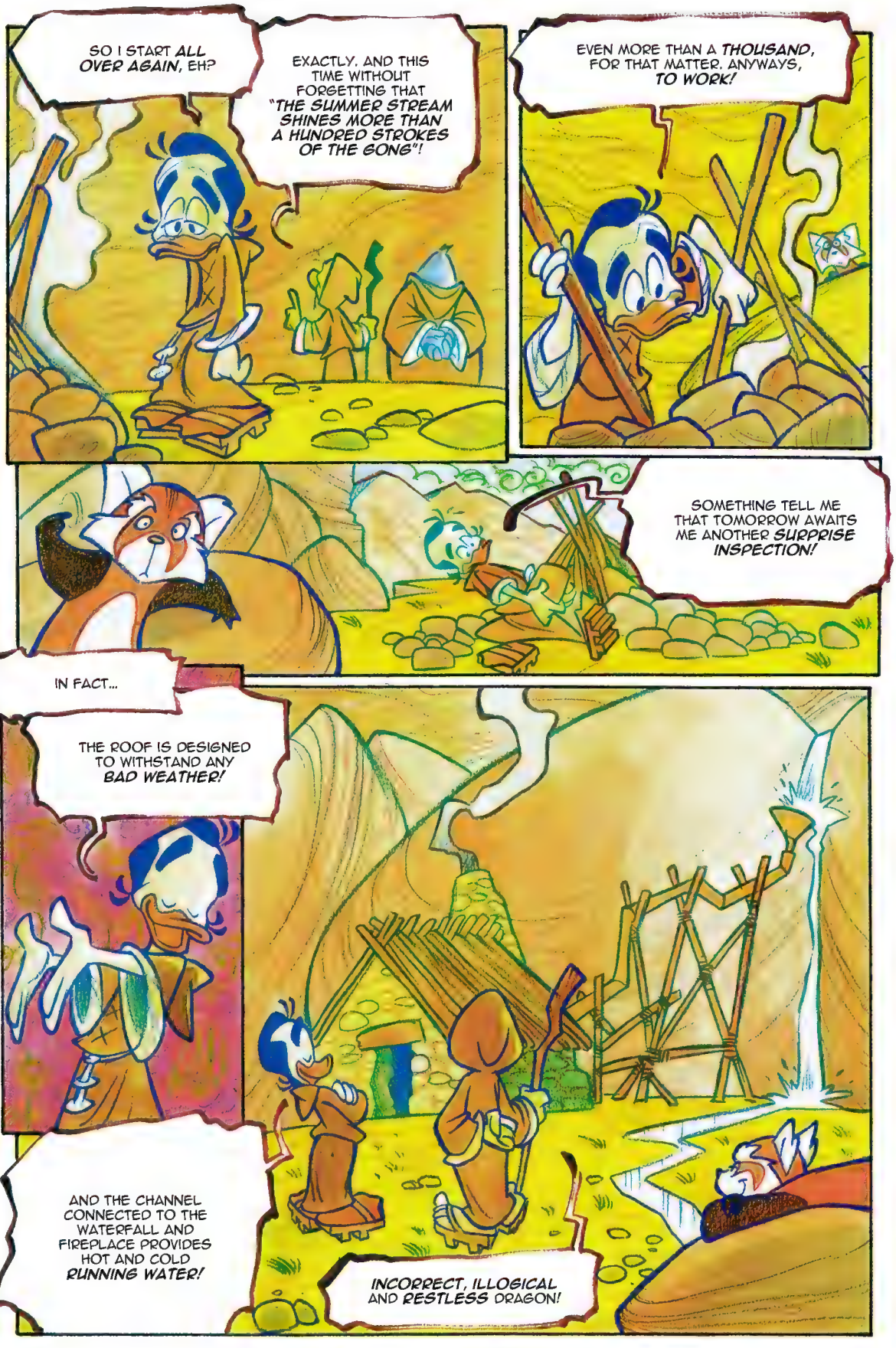

"WHOEVER LISTENS TO THE VOICE OF THE WIND MUST OFTEN ASK 'SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?'"
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER, BROTHER DRAGON.
PANT! YES, YOUR SERENITY!
HERE WE ARE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SEEMS LIKE A RATHER DESOLATE PLACE!
AND SO IT NEEDS TO BE.
IN THIS RETREAT THE DISCIPLES OF DHASAM-BUL ALWAYS COME TO MEDITATE IN PERFECT SOLITUDE!

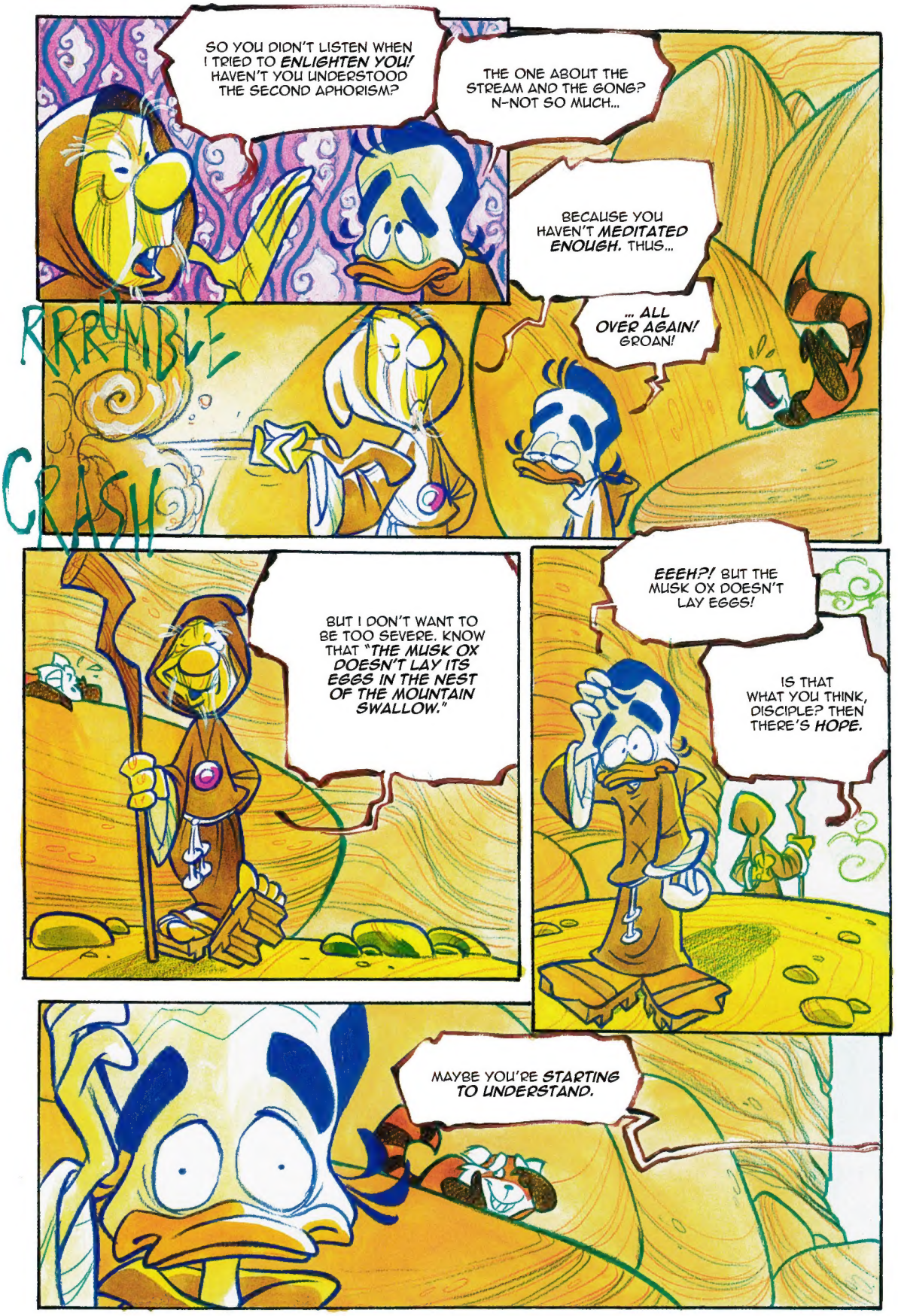
I-PKNA-ED-45

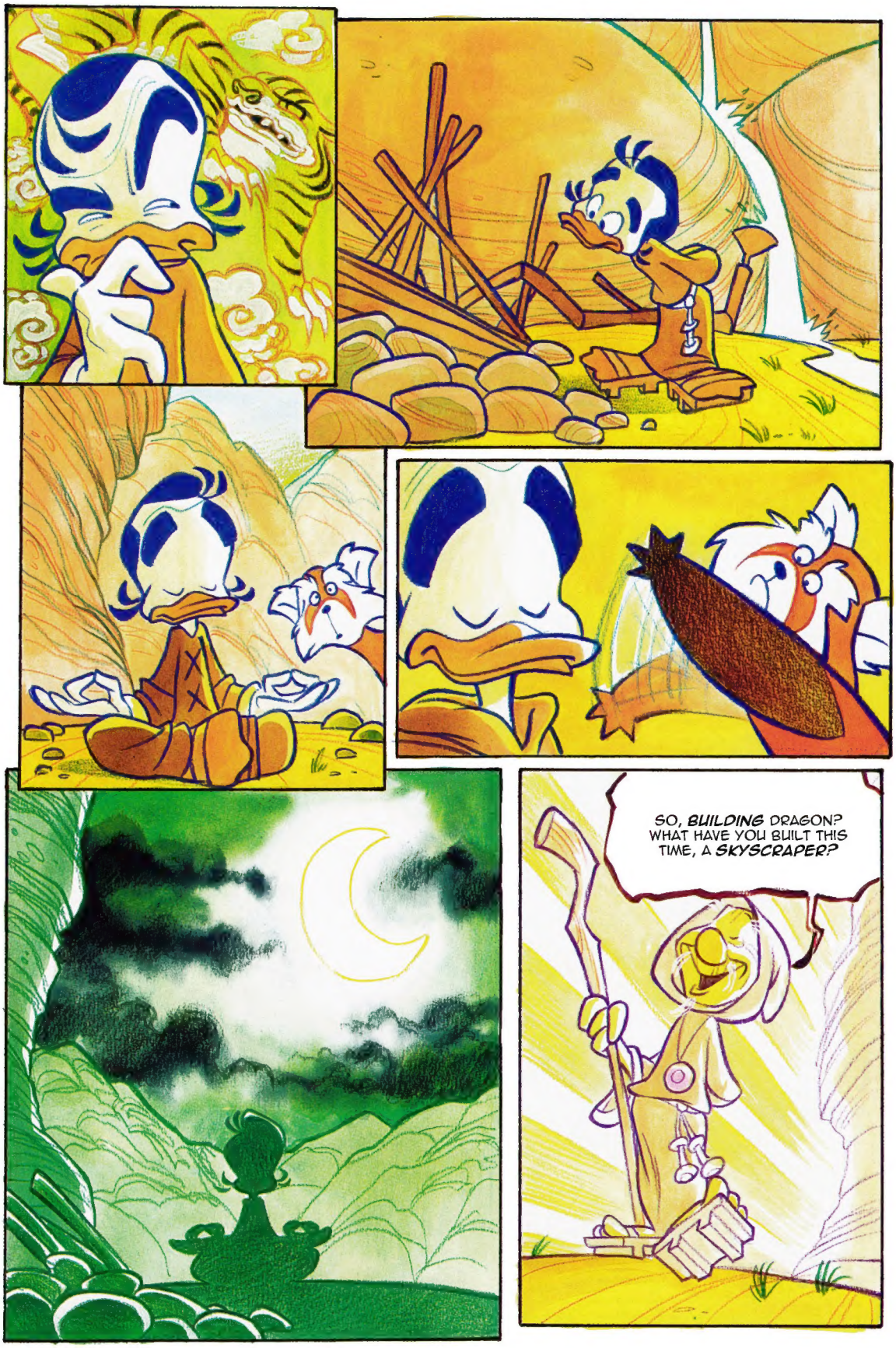

YOU'LL REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOU'VE PERFECTED YOUR INNER VISION.
GONNA BE SUCH A PAIN...
EXCUSE ME?
EHEM... I SAID I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN, SUMMIT OF ALL WISDOM!
WRONG, BROTHER. SUCH MATERIAL TRIFLES SHOULDN'T AFFECT YOUR CONCENTRATION!
IN ANY CASE, YOU CAN ALWAYS TAKE SHELTER IN THE WARM CABIN AT DISPOSAL FOR HERMITS.
HUH? WHERE WOULD THAT BE?
OH YES, I FORGOT. I'M AFRAID THAT WHEN THE SNOW MELTED A SMALL AVALANCHE...
... HAD IT RUINED A LITTLE.
A LITTLE? I APPRECIATE YOUR CAPACITY TO MINIMIZE ADVERSITY, MASTER!

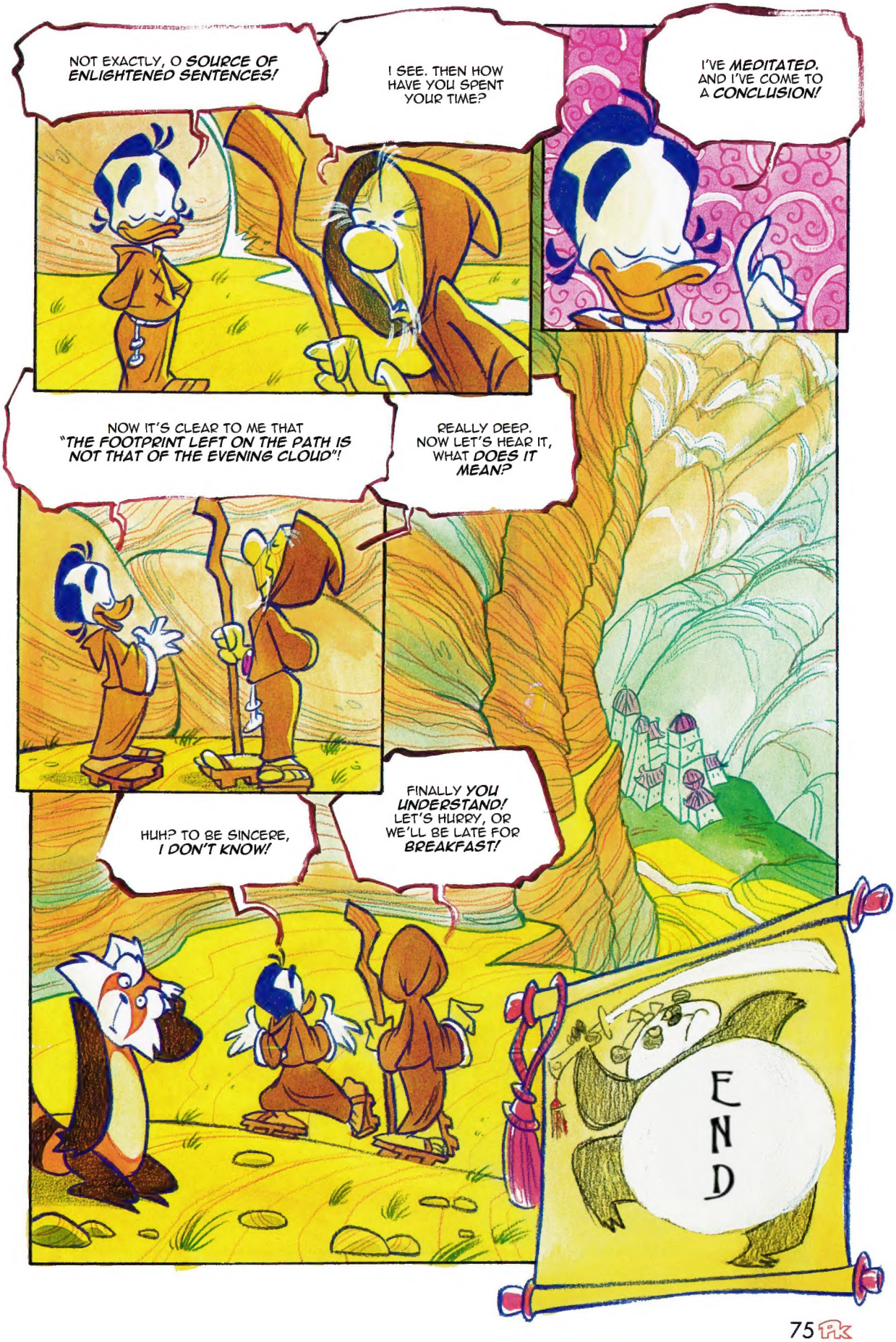

THEN YOU'LL ALSO APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE TO RECONSTRUCT IT, SLEEPING DRAGON.
GLOM!
I THOUGHT I CAME HERE TO MEDITATE!
EXACTLY. MANUAL LABOR MAKES THE MIND MORE OPEN.
AND THEN REMEMBER... "HIDDEN IN THE WARRIOR'S HELMET IS A SILK SLIPPER!"
AH, WELL, THEN...
BAH! I MIGHT AS WELL GET BUSY, OTHERWISE I'LL TONIGHT SLEEP IN THE OPEN!
THOUGH THIS ABOUT THE SLIPPER AND THE HELMET... SBUFF... I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND!


THE NEXT DAY...
MAY THE NEW DAY BRING YOU COMPREHENSION, SLEEPING DRAGON.
BROTHER ARCHITECTURAL CROW AND I CAME TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS.
THE MASTER MASON OF OUR MONASTERY! I'M HONORED!
THE CABIN IS BACK ON ITS FEET, SEE? SOLID AND SECURE?
THE STYLE LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED!
AS I FEARED.
YOUR EFFORTS ARE COMMENDABLE, BUT AS FOR SOLIDITY...
I WAS HOPING THAT THE APHORISM I TOLD YOU WOULD GUIDE YOU!
RRRUUUMBLE
CRAASH


SO I START ALL OVER AGAIN, EH?
EXACTLY. AND THIS TIME WITHOUT FORGETTING THAT "THE SUMMER STREAM SHINES MORE THAN A HUNDRED STROKES OF THE GONG"!
EVEN MORE THAN A THOUSAND, FOR THAT MATTER. ANYWAYS, TO WORK!
SOMETHING TELL ME THAT TOMORROW AWAITS ME ANOTHER SURPRISE INSPECTION!
IN FACT...
THE ROOF IS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND ANY BAD WEATHER!
AND THE CHANNEL CONNECTED TO THE WATERFALL AND FIREPLACE PROVIDES HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER!
INCORRECT, ILLOGICAL AND RESTLESS DRAGON!


SO YOU DIDN'T LISTEN WHEN I TRIED TO ENLIGHTEN YOU! HAVEN'T YOU UNDERSTOOD THE SECOND APHORISM?
THE ONE ABOUT THE STREAM AND THE GONG? N-NOT SO MUCH...
BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T MEDITATED ENOUGH. THUS...
... ALL OVER AGAIN! GROAN!
RRRUMBLE
CRASH
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO SEVERE. KNOW THAT "THE MUSK OX DOESN'T LAY ITS EGGS IN THE NEST OF THE MOUNTAIN SWALLOW."
EEEH?! BUT THE MUSK OX DOESN'T LAY EGGS!
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK, DISCIPLE? THEN THERE'S HOPE.
MAYBE YOU'RE STARTING TO UNDERSTAND.


SO, BUILDING DRAGON? WHAT HAVE YOU BUILT THIS TIME, A SKYSCRAPER?


NOT EXACTLY, O SOURCE OF ENLIGHTENED SENTENCES!
I SEE. THEN HOW HAVE YOU SPENT YOUR TIME?
I'VE MEDITATED. AND I'VE COME TO A CONCLUSION!
NOW IT'S CLEAR TO ME THAT "THE FOOTPRINT LEFT ON THE PATH IS NOT THAT OF THE EVENING CLOUD"!
REALLY DEEP. NOW LET'S HEAR IT, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
HUH? TO BE SINCERE, I DON'T KNOW!
FINALLY YOU UNDERSTAND! LET'S HURRY, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR BREAKFAST!
END

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